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16 PAGES 150 FILLS

Khomeini sues Yugoslav critics

BELGRADE, April 15, (Agencies): Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini is suing a Yugoslav newspaper which criticised his call for the killing of Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, the editor has said.

Stanislav Marinkovic, editor-in-chief of the official daily Yugoslav newspaper Borba, said yesterday a suit had been filed in Khomeini's name against him, Borba journalist Vesna Roganovic, and prominent

Yugoslav novelist Slobodan Selencic. Selencic, head of the official Yugoslav Writers' Union, was sued because of a statement he gave Borba last month about "Khomeini's frightening threat" against Rushdie, while Marinkovic and Roganovic were cited for allowing it to be published, said the daily.

The charges are based on article 158 of the Yugoslav Criminal Code which forbids

"public humiliation" of foreign states and their leaders, and carries a possible three-year jail sentence, Borba said.

Italy and Iran have re-established normal diplomatic relations after withdrawing their ambassadors in a dispute over Rushdie.

An Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that Iran's Ambassador to Rome, Hamid Abu Talebi, returned on Monday.

Premier concerned, to probe power cut

By Hussain Salameh

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah will visit the electricity control room in Jabriya today to discuss with officials and technical staff the reasons for the power failure in Kuwait on Thursday, sources said.

Sheikh Saad's concern stems from the fact that it is the second power cut to have occurred in the country within four months, the sources added.

The Premier yesterday received Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Homoud Al Rqabah.

Afterwards, Rqabah chaired a high level meeting at the MEW. The meeting was attended by the undersecretary and other senior ministry officials. This was followed by a second meeting chaired by ministry Undersecretary Abdullah Al Munayya. The meeting was attended by the operation and maintenance of projects officials and contractors who executed the Al Zour power station project. The meetings were held to ensure that such power failures do not happen again, informed sources said.

The sources said that the cause of error leading to the total blackout is attributed to a faulty fuel valve which feeds several units in the station. "Fuel did not reach the engine system, causing a power failure at Al Zour," they said.

They added that the indicator which was supposed to reflect any error in the valve was also out of order. Only Eastern Doha station responded to the computerised interlinking network which makes other stations compensate for failure in any of the power stations. Western Doha failed to respond, meanwhile, which led to the blackout.

Cory to visit US again

MANILA, April 15, (AP): Philippine President Corason Aquino may visit the United States to urge congressional passage of a \$200 million aid bill, a US businessman said yesterday.

John Mulrone, president of the Philadelphia-based Rohas and Haas Co., a chemical manufacturing firm, said Aquino mentioned her tentative plan during a courtesy call he made at the presidential palace.

INSIDE

International	2,3
Kuwait-Gulf	4
Middle East	5
Editorials	6
Business	7,8
Features	9,10
Events	11
Classifieds	12
Urdu	13,14
Sports	15,16

قائمة المحتويات

الشرق الأوسط 5

الكويت والخليج 4

الرياضة 15, 16

الأسواق 7, 8

المواقيف 6

المواقيف 11

المواقيف 12

المواقيف 13, 14

المواقيف 15, 16

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Arab force may police Lebanon

Parliament member killed in shelling

KUWAIT, April 15, (Agencies): Representatives of six Arab nations meet in Kuwait tomorrow to draft a working plan for resolving the Lebanese crisis which may include the formation of an Arab peace-keeping force, Arab government sources said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the US has condemned the savage shelling of Beirut.

Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed said his country would be willing to contribute troops to such a force if the Arab League called on it to do so.

Sheikh Nawaf said his country was ready "to contribute in any Arab force to secure the ceasefire in Lebanon when the Arab League council decides."



Jibril addressing a rally in Syria.

We make barometer bombs, claims Jibril

'PFLP-GC didn't destroy 103'

WASHINGTON, April 15, (UPI): The leader of a terrorist group that is suspected in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 said yesterday his organisation built bombs similar to the one that blew up the Boeing 747 over Scotland, killing 270 people.

But Ahmad Jibril, chief of the Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, said on the American television programme, ABC news, that the December 1988 bombing was "barbaric" and his group played no part in it.

Jibril warned against any attempt by the United States or Israel to attack PFLP-GC bases in retaliation for the bombing, saying: "We shall not remain still. Our response shall be equal, if not more violent."

Jibril, in his first in-depth interview with a Western news organisation since the Dec 21 bombing, said the PFLP-GC manufactured so-called "barometer bombs" intended for use on targets in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The devices are triggered by changes in atmospheric pressure, such as when an aircraft climbs to a high altitude.

West German police seized at least one barometer bomb last fall when they raided a PFLP-GC cell in that country and arrested several suspected terrorists.

US and British authorities have named the PFLP-GC as one of the prime suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which originated in Frankfurt, West Germany, and was en route to New York. The disaster killed all 259 people aboard the aircraft and 11 others on the ground in Lockerbie, Scotland.

Investigators determined the Boeing 747 was destroyed by a barometer bomb concealed inside a radio-cassette player. No suspects have been arrested.

Jibril, interviewed in Damascus, Syria, conceded that one of his lieutenants "had such a device" in West Germany.

"We had prepared it for our units in the occupied territories," he said.

Responding to Western allegations that the PFLP-GC carried out the bombing on behalf of Iran, Jibril said his group had no part in the attack, although he shared Iran's outrage over the US Navy's accidental downing of an Iranian passenger jet July 3 over the Gulf, which killed 290 people.

"I see now that the incident of the Pan Am is neither worse nor uglier than the destruction of the Iranian Airbus," Jibril told ABC. "Both of them are crimes against civilians, whether by the US administration or by terrorist groups who may have blown up the Pan Am. They are equally barbaric."

One day after the idea surfaced, the White House said yesterday that President Bush will not visit Lockerbie.



Carrier

Investigators believe a Lebanese college student, Khalid Jaafar, who lived in Michigan and was returning home unwittingly, carried the Pan Am bomb.

Discussions among representatives from Arab League states Kuwait, Jordan, the UAE, Tunisia, Algeria and Sudan, "may envisage the creation of an Arab observer force" to oversee the league's proposed ceasefire and return to constitutional normalcy in Lebanon, government sources said.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, chairman of the Arab League panel on Lebanon, said his committee's plan still had a way to go before Lebanese Christian and Muslim leaders could accept it.

Leaders of the Christian Lebanese Front who participated in the Arab League panel talks in Kuwait have already approved in principle the formation of an Arab observer force from the six members of the Arab League committee.

Front sources said Arab peace-keepers would be required to supervise the reactivation of Lebanon's constitutional institutions - such as the election of a new President, a new Parliament speaker and a new government, which will undertake political and constitutional reforms - provided foreign troops depart Lebanese soil.

A member of Lebanon's Parliament was killed today when a shell crashed into his house in Christian East Beirut, security sources said.

Louis Aboucharaf, a 75-year-old Maronite Christian, was the fourth Lebanese deputy to die violently in the country's 15 years of civil war. The other three were assassinated.

Aboucharaf received a shrapnel wound in the neck and died after a shell hit his home in the residential Achrafieh district, the sources said.

His death reduced the number of members in the 99-seat House elected in 1972 to 76. No elections have been held since then because of the war.

At least 184 people have been killed in four weeks of battles between soldiers loyal to Aoun and Syrian forces backed by

(Continued on Page 5 Col 7)

Curfew imposed PLO calls on US to condemn massacre

TUNIS, April 15, (Agencies): The Palestine Liberation Organisation has urged the United States to condemn what it called a massacre at Nahalin village in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

"The US is required to take a firm stance condemning this massacre. Remaining silent will only encourage the occupying government to conduct more crimes and massacres," said Ahmed Abderrahman, the PLO's official spokesman.

At least six Palestinians were killed and 15 wounded in a clash between Israeli border police and villagers on Thursday. Reports have varied on the number of Palestinians killed in the village.

Abderrahman said the Nahalin incident indicated there was a new Israeli plan to quell the 16-month-old uprising in the occupied territories.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat said today that the US ignores Israel's violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He also called the attack an affront to the administration of US President Bush because it took place while Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was touring the US.

"The massacre in the village of Nahalin was either committed with the consent of the United States, or as a direct challenge to it," Arafat said during an early morning press conference in his villa in Baghdad.

"I wonder what the American position is now that Shamir gave his orders to kill innocent Palestinians who were sleeping at their homes and not demonstrating in streets?" he said.

Arafat praised Britain, the International Red Cross and United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for condemning the killing. He urged the UN Security Council to take "appropriate measures to protect the Palestinians" in the occupied territories.

The Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson has severely criticised Israel, saying its forces massacred Palestinians during an attack on Nahalin.

"The massacre on Thursday fills us with disgust and sorrow," Andersson told a meeting of local authority workers yesterday.

"Day of rage" The Israeli Army imposed widespread curfews in the occupied territories today to try to prevent violence on a "day of rage" called for tomorrow by leaders of the Palestinian uprising.

Leaders of the 16-month revolt against Israeli rule of the West Bank and Gaza Strip called for the protests to mark the first anniversary of the killing of PLO military chief Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

An Army spokeswoman said "preventive curfews" were imposed on the West Bank towns of Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Dehshis and the surrounding refugee camps.

See Israeli forces admit Page 5



Daring jump

For one brief, terrifying moment, Robbie Knievel thought he hadn't made it.

Like his father 22 years ago, Knievel thought he wasn't going fast enough to make the landing ramp across the fountains at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas.

But make it he did, soaring about 160 feet (49 metres) across the fountains last night to a near perfect landing (above) in the repeat of the jump

that nearly killed Evel Knievel in 1967.

The motorcycle came down at some 70 miles per hour (113 kilometres per hour) and Knievel managed to avoid a nearby concrete pillar and stop the bike before hitting a wall in an underground parking garage less than the length of a football field away.

(Reuters wirephoto)

Tigers devour 33 in Lanka violence

COLOMBO, April 15, (Reuters): A bomb exploded in Sri Lanka's northern city Jaffna, killing 12 people and seriously wounding 18, residents and military sources said today.

Tamil separatist guerrillas killed 21 soldiers in a separate action.

The sources said the powerful bomb was being transported in a van last night when it exploded near Jaffna University damaging several nearby houses.

"Most of the people were killed as a result of the buildings collapsing on them," a Jaffna journalist said.

He said a man died of a heart attack after his house collapsed.

Security sources said they suspected the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas were responsible for the blast. The Tigers are fighting to set up an independent homeland for the minority Tamil community.

Jaffna, an almost entirely Tamil city of 133,000 people, was the Tigers' stronghold until October 1987 when Indian troops launched a military offensive against the rebels.

The Tigers killed 21 soldiers when they ambushed a military patrol in northern Sri Lanka today, a military spokesman said.

The Tigers said today they were ready to hold talks with the Colombo government in an effort to end years of fighting.

The cup that doesn't cheer

NEW DELHI, April 15, (Agencies): Thieves operating out of a railroad station near Bombay have come up with a new ploy: a cup of tea that leaves the sipper drunk - and poorer, United News of India reported.

The news agency said the thieves mingle with licensed tea vendors on the platform at Kalyan, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) northeast of Bombay, and sell tea spiked with intoxicants. Gang members then board the trains as passengers, wait for their victims to nod off, and relieve them of cash and other belongings.

More than 20 women and children burnt to death and about 60 were injured when a decorated float carrying them in a procession caught fire, police said today.

Abu Ghazala named assistant president

CAIRO, April 15, (Agencies): Field Marshal Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala, Egypt's Defence Minister who was considered the country's second most-powerful man, was named assistant president today. His cabinet portfolio was given to the governor of Cairo.

The Defence Ministry, which Abu Ghazala headed for eight years, went to Maj. Gen. Youssef Sabry Abu-Taleb, who ran the capital's city government for six years.

President Hosni Mubarak announced the surprise appointments in two decrees and immediately swore in Abu Ghazala and Abu-Taleb in their new posts, with Prime Minister Ataf Sedki present.

Reasons for the shifts were not given. The post of assistant president hitherto has been a largely

ceremonial one. Its last holder before Abu Ghazala was former Prime Minister Mamdouh Salem, who was used by the President mostly as his representative at ceremonial functions abroad.

The vice-presidency has remained vacant since Mubarak succeeded assassinated President Anwar Sadat in October 1981. Mubarak served as vice-president to Sadat from 1975 until the assassination.

In the last few years, there have been frequent reports and much speculation that Mubarak would appoint Abu Ghazala, as vice-president. Abu Ghazala always denied the reports.

Some Egyptian commentators said the reshuffle brought Abu Ghazala closer to the centre of power, while others suggested he would lose his power base in the armed forces.

Elections after partial pullback

Palestinians propose new idea

CAIRO, April 15, (Agencies): Palestinian leaders are telling Egypt they would accept elections in Israeli-occupied territories, but only under international supervision and after a partial Israeli pullback, an Egyptian government source said today.

He said the suggestions were among ideas recently brought to Cairo by a group of West Bankers led by Faisal Hussein, head of the Arab Studies Centre in East Jerusalem. Hussein met with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid last Sunday.

The idea is a counter proposal to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's suggestion last week to hold elections supervised by Israeli forces.

Palestinians said it would soon be presented to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, whose aides have rejected elections prior to full

Israeli withdrawal from the areas occupied in 1967.

The sources would not identify who exactly was behind the proposal, but said it was floated by a group of West Bank intellectuals. It was not clear how much backing the idea had from activists on the streets.

The proposal lays down a four-stage process.

● Multinational forces oversee the withdrawal of Israeli troops from population centres in the West Bank and Gaza Strip although they would still retain a presence in the occupied areas.

● A vote is held under international supervision to elect West Bank and Gaza members to the Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO-affiliated parliament-in-exile.

● Arafat designates five of those elected to negotiate with Israel over the terms of a two-

year interim period leading to an international peace conference. The negotiations would cover internal security, trade and other issues relevant to the interim period.

● Israel negotiates with the PLO at the conference over the final status of the West Bank and Gaza.

The proposal, said to be based on suggestions by Jerusalem-based Western diplomats, also calls for a written guarantee from the United States that Israel would follow through on all steps, including talks with the PLO.

"We reject the ideas of Shamir, but we can take the idea of elections and make the best out of it," said a Palestinian familiar with the proposal.

Shamir said yesterday that he

(Continued on Page 5 Col 7)

US to remain force for peaceful change

Bush outlines foreign policy

WASHINGTON, April 15, (Agencies): Secretary of State James Baker, in the first full public exposition of the Bush administration's foreign policy, yesterday outlined a strategy of gradual change and step-by-step negotiations.

In an address to the American Society of newspaper editors, Baker said: "Consultation and consensus, the careful movement of a step-by-step programme and slow but steady change for the better are the ways of democracy, the ways that suit us best."

He also said the US will be a force for peaceful change and freedom.

In his speech, Baker also said the new leadership in the Soviet Union and other changes have created a global situation that "is less susceptible to the grand gesture, the single solution or the over-arching doctrine. We face a see-saw contest on many fronts."

He listed some of those fronts, and the administration's agenda:

■ In the Western Hemisphere,

the United States will look for evidence that the Soviet Union has really given up its policy of "export of the revolution," as stated by President Mikhail Gorbachev. Baker called anew for an end to the massive export of Soviet arms to Nicaragua.

■ In the Middle East, he said, "It is clear that the substantive gap between the parties is too wide, and the atmosphere too clouded by violence and tension to launch negotiations now."

Therefore, he said, the administration has adopted a step-by-step approach to reduce tensions and promote a dialogue between the Israelis and the Palestinians in order to "build an environment that can sustain negotiations on interim arrangements and permanent status."

■ As for America's allies in Western Europe and Asia, Baker pledged the administration will follow a policy of consultation and consensus on East-West issues, as well as such matters as the environment and trade.

The first principle of foreign policy under President Bush, he said, is that the United States will remain engaged as a force for peaceful change and freedom.

"There is no place to run and nowhere to hide," he said. "We must therefore use America's power for good."

■ Baker praised the economic reform programme in the Soviet Union, but said Gorbachev could be in trouble unless "there are consumer goods on the table and in the markets."

Baker said the risk to the Soviet leader could come from opponents of change, entrenched elements of the bureaucracy and from "sources of nationalist discontent."

He said Gorbachev's economic programme, perestroika, is in the best interest of the United States and the world because it would lead to a more secure and stable Soviet Union.

"We very much want perestroika to succeed," Baker said. "We very much want the general secretary to succeed."

But, Baker said, political reform in the Soviet Union is proceeding faster than economic reform. "That might trigger something," he said. "These things generally have to proceed apace."

Baker, due to meet with Gorbachev and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow May 10-11, said, "there is some risk" to the Soviet leadership.

"If they are unable to get the economic part of this going and going well so there are consumer goods on the table and in the markets, that's going to give rise to some feelings on the part of some that this idea of perestroika doesn't mean much to the common man in the Soviet Union," he said.

Baker added, "I see a chance of it, and I think it would be unfortunate."

Baker said he would raise the issue of Soviet bomber sales to Libya and urge Moscow to tear down the Berlin Wall.

Pamella returns, ready to bare all

LONDON, April 15, (Reuters): Pamela Bordes, the former beauty queen said to be involved in a House of Commons sex scandal, has returned to Britain ready to share her story with the security authorities and the readers of a tabloid newspaper.

"I am now ready to tell what I know. I feel I have kept quiet for too long," Bordes, 27, told the Evening Standard newspaper from her hideout somewhere in the south of England.

"After much heart-searching I am now prepared to make myself available to the authorities of answer any questions involving British or international security," she said.

Since she hit the headlines a month ago, feverish media coverage has linked her with two British Sunday newspaper editors, members of Parliament and a top official of the Libyan secret service, prompting calls for a security inquiry.

Buckingham Palace took the highly unusual step of issuing a



A man, injured during nationalist riots on April 9 in which 19 people were killed, speaks to journalists in Tbilisi, Soviet Union. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crisis recedes

ROME, April 15, (Reuters): Italy's five-party government appeared to have pulled back from the brink of collapse yesterday but politicians agreed Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita had won only a few months' reprieve.

Politicians from all sides said the danger of an immediate crisis had receded after frenetic consultations yesterday involving the two feuding leaders of the coalition, the Christian Democrats and Socialists.

Vietnam's request

BANGKOK, Thailand, April 15, (AP): Vietnam has asked Great Britain to co-chair an international commission to monitor the final withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea this year, a senior British government official said yesterday.

Lord Glenarthur, minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the Vietnamese made the request in talks during his April 9-14 visit to Vietnam.

Briton arrested

BANGKOK, Thailand, April 15, (AP): A British national has been arrested on charges of insulting Thailand's royal family, British embassy official who requested anonymity said today.

The official said the man was arrested earlier this month at the seaside resort of Hua Hin, 150 kms (94 miles) southwest of Bangkok, and has been released on bail.

He said the Briton was accused of having made insulting remarks about Princess Maha Srinidhara, a daughter of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and Princess Saomsawali, the wife of crown prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Gallup in Moscow

LINCOLN, Nebraska, April 15, (UPI): Top executives of the Gallup Organisation are travelling to Moscow on an invitation from the Soviet Union to participate in a private joint venture to conduct opinion surveys.

Jim Clifton, president of Gallup, said one goal of the trip is to sign a contract through which Gallup would own part of the co-operative deal.

'Human sacrifices'

Seven bodies identified

MATAMOROS, Mexico, April 15, (AP): Families who travelled hundreds of miles from across Mexico viewed mutilated corpses yesterday to learn whether their missing loved ones were among a cult's 13 human sacrifices.

"From all over the country, families have been coming here. They're still coming," said Hector Olvera Garcia, an employee of a funeral home, El Rosario, where seven bodies were taken after being dug up at a ranch west of the city of Matamoros, which is near the US-Mexican border.

Seven of the 13 victims had been identified by yesterday, and federal charges were filed against four men in custody in Mexico; a man and a woman thought to be

Tensions rise in Georgian capital

Troops pelted with rocks

MOSCOW, April 15, (AP): Soldiers patrolling streets in the Soviet Georgian capital Tbilisi have been pelted with rocks and bottles, and extremists have made anonymous appeals for terrorist acts, newspaper reports said today.

The Communist Party paper Pravda and the Defence Ministry newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda reported that Tbilisi was calm during the day but that tensions rose as an 11 pm curfew approached.

The reports came as the southern republic's Communist Party and government leaders were replaced in the aftermath of a bloody melee that erupted after troops were ordered to disperse nationalist protesters early Sunday. Officials say 19 people were killed.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, a politician who is an ethnic Georgian, said in remarks broadcast last night on Soviet

television that it was impossible to tolerate blunders by officials that led to "death and loss."

"Nobody and nothing can justify the deaths of absolutely innocent people," Shevardnadze said in a speech to the local party leadership. Shevardnadze, a former Georgian party leader, had been sent to Tbilisi to ease the tensions.

Krasnaya Zvezda reported that "according to the military commandant, calls for people to commit terrorist acts have appeared on the building of the Republican hospital and in the region of the medical institute leaflets."

"In a few regions rocks and bottles have been thrown at military vehicles during the night," it said.

Pravda said some classes were not full because some parents are afraid to send their children back to school. Even though teachers were at work, students of most technical schools and academies

still were boycotting classes, it said.

Tbilisi workers "are showing an example of restraint and high morality," Pravda said. Farmers' markets stabilised after the violence last Sunday cut the number of shoppers and led to quick price increases, it said.

Pravda also suggested that the overnight curfew could be ended soon. "There is every possibility for this," Pravda said.

The resignation of Communist Party first secretary Dzumbur I. Patisashvili, who had accepted responsibility for Sunday's deaths, was unanimously accepted by the party's central committee after "heated discussion," Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov said at a news briefing in Moscow.

Givi G. Gumbardze, who has been Georgia's KGB chief for two months, was elected to replace Patisashvili. Gumbardze, 45, previously served as party leader in Tbilisi.

UN extends deadline for SWAPO pullout

Fighting dents peace efforts

WINDHOEK, April 15, (Reuters): South Africa and the United Nations abandoned a Saturday deadline for the withdrawal of SWAPO guerrillas from Namibia as renewed fighting was reported in the territory.

South Africa's Administrator-General in Namibia, Louis Pienaar, and the UN's special representative Martti Ahtisaari said in a joint statement yesterday the rebels would now have at least until April 21 to leave Namibia.

Fighting was the latest outbreak of what was "tragic given the concerted efforts of all participants... to bring hostilities to an end with the least possible delay."

South African spokesman Gerhard Roux said seven South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) rebels died in fighting with South African-led security forces on Thursday night.

Three security force members were wounded in the battle and about 14 rebels were taken prisoner.

The latest battle within five km (three miles) of a UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) camp at Swartbooisdrift took the guerrilla death toll to 276 since April 1, the day a Namibian

independence plan went into effect.

Twenty-seven government troops have died in the clashes, which briefly derailed the UN-sponsored 12-month plan for Namibian independence after 73 years of South African rule.

UN officials said Ahtisaari heard about the latest battle almost 24 hours after it started at 6 pm on Thursday.

Ahtisaari also was not told in advance of a South African statement that 350 SWAPO rebels had left Namibia for Angola on foot, most of them on Thursday night.

South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha announced the withdrawal figures, which were based on an assessment of northward bound tracks by (bushman) trackers.

He said about 900 of the estimated 1,600 guerrillas who crossed illegally from Angola on April 1 were still in Namibia.

Rebel survivors of the vicious border battles last week are required by an international peace agreement to withdraw to bases at least 150 km (90 miles) inside Angola.

Only five had made use of the UN facilities by Friday, however, SWAPO leaders say the UNTAG forces are posted

too close to South African military bases.

SWAPO spokesman Hidipo Hamutenya said guerrillas were making their own way to Angola. "You can forget about the assembly points," he said.

The nine assembly points were set up under an agreement on Sunday between Angola, Cuba and South Africa with the help of Soviet and US officials.

The bases were to have closed today, but Pienaar and Ahtisaari confirmed statements made separately by South Africa and the UN when they extended the deadline by at least a week.

Urging all parties to comply with the withdrawal agreement, they said the position would be reviewed next Saturday and the bases might then be kept open for longer.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe said yesterday South Africa was still in a fighting mood in Namibia during the territory's transition to independence.

Mugabe told a news conference in Harare South African-led forces were still bent on hunting down SWAPO guerrillas.

He said the South Africans, who have fought SWAPO forces for 23 years, "are still in the mood to fight, in the mood to attack—in the same bloody mood."



Former Chinese leader Hu dies

BEIJING, April 15, (Reuters): Hu Yaobang, former Chinese Communist Party leader, died of a heart attack in Beijing today, the official New China News Agency said.

Hu, once the protégé of senior leader Deng Xiaoping and still a member of the party's powerful Politburo, was ousted in January, 1987, by party hardliners after a wave of student protests calling for more freedom and democracy.

Hu, 73, suffered a heart attack on April 8, the agency said. He was given all possible medical attention "but to no avail."

The agency said Hu had another sudden, major heart attack this morning.

Western newspapers reported Hu suffered his first attack during a meeting of the politburo last Saturday.

"I should point out that the fact he is ill has nothing directly to do with the politburo meeting," Premier Li Peng told reporters on Wednesday on leaving for Japan.

Li said he had visited Hu in hospital on April 9 and that his condition had improved.

Chinese sources said Hu had enjoyed little effective power within the politburo since he was forced to resign in 1987.

Hu's liberal attitudes made him popular among foreign leaders and Chinese intellectuals but led to his downfall at the hands of party hardliners who accused him of allowing Western political ideas to spread unchecked.

He was succeeded as party general secretary by Zhao Ziyang, his apparent of the 84-year-old Deng.

A dapper chain-smoker, Hu made his last public appearance at the opening session of the National People's Congress, or Parliament, on March 20, sitting alongside China's top leaders.

Support for rebels

UNITED NATIONS, April 15, (AP): Mozambique's prime minister yesterday said the anti-Marxist rebels battling to topple his government are supported from within South Africa, but stopped short of blaming the government in Pretoria.

India accuses Nepal of violating treaty

NEW DELHI, April 15, (AP): India has accused Nepal of violating a 39-year-old friendship treaty and said it might have to review its relations with the neighbouring country.

Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman Aflak Seth made the accusation and suggested reviewing relations following a statement Nepal's King Birendra made Thursday. Birendra said that India had presented his landlocked country with new hardships following the halt of trade three weeks ago.

India stopped trade with Nepal on March 19 after

the two countries' treaties on trade and transit expired.

India also closed 13 of the 15 entry points along the 1,750-kilometre (1,093-mile) India-Nepal border.

Nepal is bounded in the south by India and by the Tibet region of China in the north. Most of Nepal's trade is conducted with or through India.

Nepal is a country of 17 million people while India has 880 million people.

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Support for rebels

UNITED NATIONS, April 15, (AP): Mozambique's prime minister yesterday said the anti-Marxist rebels battling to topple his government are supported from within South Africa, but stopped short of blaming the government in Pretoria.

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INTERNATIONAL

FDA ends inspection of Chilean fruits

WASHINGTON, April 15, (AP) The US Food and Drug Administration yesterday ended its special US inspections of fruit from Chile, which have turned up no evidence of poisonings since traces of cyanide were found in two grapes last month.

Fruit from the South American country will be subject to routine, random spot checks

at US ports of entry. Though the FDA said it expects the Chilean government to continue inspecting one per cent of its fruit shipments bound for the United States for the rest of its growing season, which is winding down.

FDA commissioner Frank Young said the co-operation of Chilean officials as well as "greater consumer awareness, as

well as laboratory studies, and the findings of no additional problems in Chilean fruit" combined to end the need for the enhanced inspections.

When the tainted grapes were found on March 12 after a cyanide-poisoning threat telephoned to the US embassy in the Chilean capital of Santiago, the FDA urged that all fruit from Chile be

removed from store shelves and imposed a temporary detention on Chilean fruit shipments at the docks.

Five days later, the agency began a stepped-up inspection plan for fruit being held in warehouses and at the docks, but about 3.5 million cases of fruit, worth about \$41 million, that was held by wholesalers and

retailers had to be dumped. Chilean fruit exporters and US importers said they lost about \$240 million because of the health scare, but David Holzworth, a Washington attorney who represents the Chilean Exporters Association, said the FDA has been "moving as rapidly as possible...to get things back to normal."

Legal struggle on Two claim marriage to Mendes

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 15, (AP) A legal struggle is on to decide who is the wife of the late, world-acclaimed Brazilian ecologist, Francisco "Chico" Mendes. According to a lawyer involved, the issue could determine the distribution of money paid by international filmmakers to bring his life story to overseas movie and TV screens.

Eunice Freitas de Menezes, who claims to be Mendes' first and only legal wife, has asked a court in Acre state to confirm her marital status to Mendes.

Her lawyer said her only goal is to have her marriage recognised. But asked if she will try to obtain the film rights from Mendes' widow, Ilsear Mendes, if the court finds in her favour, the lawyer said, "Of course we will."

The case is expected to be considered by the court in two to three weeks. Mendes, 44, a rubber tapper's union leader who fought to save the Amazon jungle from deforestation, became the focus of world attention when he was gunned down by the son of a cattle rancher late last year outside his modest wooden house in the Acre jungle town of Xapuri, 2,666 miles (4,300 kilometres) northwest of Rio.

Award

The death of Mendes, who had won a United Nations award for his struggle against Amazon ranchers eager to clear the rain forest for grazing, struck a deep chord world-wide.

Hollywood producers, eyeing the "dramatic value" of his story about a confrontation between ruthless, powerful Amazon landowners and humble rubber tree tappers, have rushed to inquire about shooting a movie about the life and death of Mendes, regarded by many as the world's first environmental martyr.

Robert Redford, representing 20th Century Fox, United Artists, Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros. Inc., US Cable Television tycoon Ted Turner, and a slew of British and Brazilian film companies have made offers, Gilson Pescador, a member of the Chico Mendes Foundation, told the AP.

For the moment, the decision on who will get the authorised film rights, along with the co-operation from Mendes' Brazilian colleagues, lies with a four-member panel from the foundation, an organisation made up of ecologists, rubber tappers and Mendes' family members. In mid-April, the committee began reviewing the various proposals.

Coast Guards take charge of cleanup

Oil spill threatens wildlife

VALDEZ, Alaska, April 15, (UPI) The head of the US Coast Guard took charge of cleaning up the worst oil spill in North American history yesterday and gave Exxon until tonight to produce a plan to clean up the 10.1 million gallons of crude oil spilled by one of its tankers March 24.

Coast Guard commandant Admiral Paul Yost did not say what he would do if Exxon did not provide a cleanup plan, but he made it clear he expected one — although Exxon has refused to provide one to Alaskan officials and to explain its refusal.

"I have no doubt Exxon will meet the deadline," he said. "Exxon will give me a plan this weekend. I hope you're going to see a big cloud of dust... and when that settles you're going to see beach cleanup."

"I'm here to clean up this oil," the admiral said. "This is a war."

The Coast Guard commandant was sent by President Bush.

at Alaska's request, to take over spill management and become Exxon's boss in that effort.

Yost interrupted a news conference to take a call from the President and returned to tell reporters, "I let him know I'm not satisfied with what's happening."

He said Bush told him, "admiral, I am very, very concerned about the spill, and I want everything done that can be done. And I want you to keep me personally advised." And I said to him, "Mr President, there's not going to be a miracle."

Meanwhile, oil washed ashore at another national park yesterday as state and federal officials criticized Exxon corporation's cleanup as "entirely inadequate."

"We've got oil on the beach at Katmai National Park," said John Quinley, a park service spokesman.

The oil washed up at the big river area along the park's northern coast — a spectacular, undeveloped area beside the stormy Shelikof Strait, more than 250 miles from where the Exxon Valdez tanker rammed a reef on March 24.

Observers from a plane saw a bear digging clams from the tainted sand, and more wildlife seemed certain to die, Quinley said.

"There's no way to know how much he digested. But I think it's a safe assumption that if bears are eating oil-tainted food they are not going to be very well. 'We've seen pictures of dead deer in Prince William Sound that ate oil-tainted kelp. And it looks like we could be seeing brown bear meeting the same fate.'"

Much of the southern end of Kodiak Island makes up the Kodiak national wildlife refuge. Kodiak Island is the home of the largest concentration of brown bears in the world, Quinley said.

Londoners honouring Charlie Chaplin

LONDON, April 15, (Reuters) Charlie Chaplin, born 100 years ago in a London slum, catapulted to fame and fortune with his little tramp film persona, but never forgot his roots.

His moustachioed figure, in scruffy suit and battered bowler hat, shuffled through dozens of silent movies, giving his creator the entrée into the 1940s world of Hollywood talkies.

After signing his first American film contract in 1913, Chaplin never returned to live in London, though he made frequent visits.

But the diminutive actor's fatherless childhood in the East End, bounded by workhouses, schools for the destitute and the lunatic asylums in which his mother was confined, was a memory that endured throughout his 88 years.

"In later life... he would often stop and gaze at areas of London. Memories would flood back. They were not always happy. The horror and poverty of those years left an everlasting scar," wrote Jerry Epstein, one of Chaplin's many biographers.

To mark the centenary of his birth tomorrow, Londoners are honouring one of the film world's most enduring and endearing legends with an exhibition of his life, a television retrospective, a month-long film festival and a new orchestral score for his 1931 film, "City Lights."

"Charlie Chaplin is a model to us all," Maggie Pinhorn, organiser of one of the quirkier tributes, told Reuters.

Her alternative arts group of street theatre performers will award a battered bowler hat tomorrow to the artist who best imitates Chaplin's distinctive walk in a competition shuffle down London's Carnaby Street.

"He was the greatest of all the silent movie stars because of his brilliant way of communicating with ordinary people. He's a working class hero," said Pinhorn.

Biggs makes ad for security locks

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 15, (AP) Ronald Biggs, Britain's notorious great train robber, has found an honest line of work — advertising security locks.

Biggs, 38, is the star of a new TV ad for the Fama Lock Company. The commercial was filmed last weekend and is due to be aired soon, he said.

"It shows me with a magnifying glass looking at this lock in pieces on a work bench. I nod in approval and ponder what a good, burglar-proof lock it is," Biggs told the AP by telephone.

Then I say, 'when you're safe, this is a marvellous city,'" said Biggs. "Marvellous city." Is the nickname Brazilians use for Rio.

Airliners involved in close call near Madrid

LONDON, April 15, (AP) A West German and a British jetliner flew to within 300 yards (275 metres) of each other before Spanish traffic controllers ordered the British plane to dive to avoid disaster, the Dax-Air airline said yesterday.

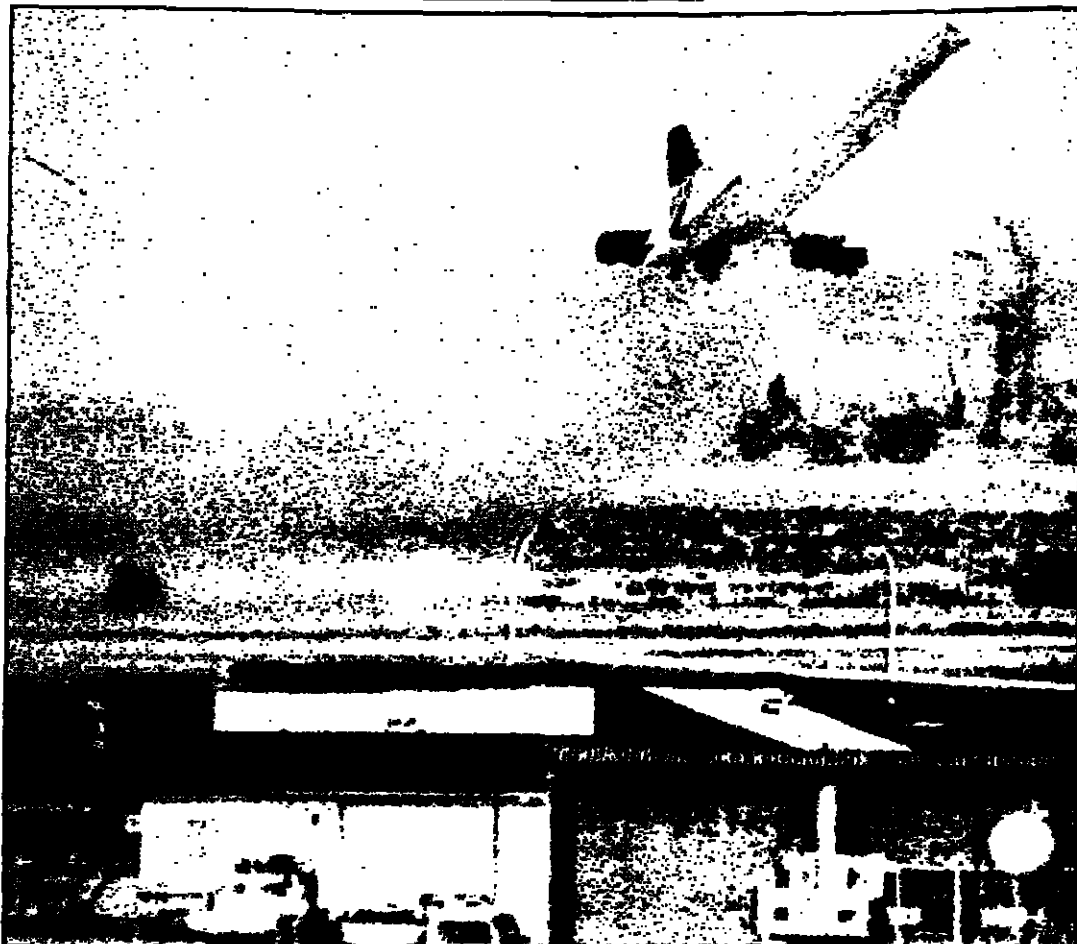
A spokesman for the British Airline said its Boeing 727 was one of the planes involved in the incident, which occurred on Thursday in airspace 80 miles (130 kilometres) north of Madrid.

He said the other plane involved was a Tri-Star from the West German Air Transport Company Lufthansa, based in Düsseldorf.

He said Spanish authorities are investigating.

The spokesman, who in accordance with British practice declined to be named, added: "Three hundred yards at that speed is very close. That distance could be covered in split seconds. This sort of air miss at this sort of altitude is fortunately fairly rare."

He said the Dax-Air plane was flying with 162 passengers from the Spanish holiday resort of Malaga to Manchester in northern England.



A British Airways Concorde takes off over Sydney's Botany Bay after repairs to its rudder were completed. (Reuters wirephoto)

Concorde resumes its three-week odyssey

BA gives planes clean bill

SYDNEY, April 15, (Agencies) British Airways Concorde resumed its round-the-world, record-breaking attempt today after engineers replaced part of its tail section ripped off in-flight on Wednesday.

The supersonic aircraft left Mascot airport 9.50 am (2350 GMT) and headed for Perth, in West Australia.

A spokeswoman for British

Airways said today four engineers flown from England on Thursday replaced the tail section and checked out the structure of the aircraft.

The world's fastest commercial aircraft today continued its 61,500 kms (37,323 mile) three-week odyssey — one day behind schedule.

British Airways, ordered to

check all its Concorde supersonic airliners after one lost part of its rudder, yesterday gave the planes in service a clean bill of health.

"There are seven Concorde in the fleet. The aircraft in Australia aside, five have been cleared," a BA spokesman said.

The remaining one is not flying as it is at present on major overhaul during which time the rudder will be checked."

France joins world-wide test tube fusion rush

PARIS, April 15, (Reuters) A Franco-Swiss team of physicists has joined the world-wide rush to check claims that energy-yielding nuclear fusion can be produced in a test tube.

Dr Yves Decais, of the French National Scientific Research Centre, said on Friday 20 scientists had begun experiments to examine claims that the fusing of two atomic nuclei was possible at room temperature, using unsophisticated laboratory equipment.

"We were contacted on Monday and began experiments on Thursday on the work of Fleischmann and Pons," Decais told

Reuters, referring to British and US researchers who surprised the world last month by suggesting fusion could take place in a laboratory.

Decais said the French scientists, from different fields of physics and chemistry, would use some of the world's most advanced particle detection equipment to check the claims.

Fusion is considered an ideal energy source because it creates more energy than it uses and is almost pollution-free. The raw material used in the experiment, a heavy form of

hydrogen called deuterium, is abundant in seawater.

Temperatures around 100 million degrees centigrade are needed to fuse the atoms and overcome forces of repulsion that normally keep them apart — a process that occurs naturally in the sun.

But on March 23, US-based Stanley Pons and Britain's Martin Fleischmann said research completed at England's Southampton University and the University of Utah suggested the process could be carried out at room temperature.

On the light side

Evil spirits responsible

JAKARTA, April 15, (Reuters) An Indonesian teacher, accused of getting two students pregnant, says evil spirits were responsible for their condition and threatened to set his own 4,000 genes against anyone who continues to question his morality.

The Jakarta Post daily said Abdul Malik, who owns an Islamic boarding school in central Java, had rejected police summons for questioning over the matter and had warned local residents they risked attack from his invisible supporters if they continued to voice their suspicions.

Gunfighters city

WINCHESTER, Oklahoma, April 15, (UPI) There's nothing at all in Winchester, never has been. Maybe one day they will put in a war museum.

In the meantime, John Montgomery is building a city across the highway. He says it looks a lot like Old Dodge City, Kansas, but he calls it Remington.

"Who ever made a better rifle than Remington?" he asked. "Nobody," he told himself, "not even Winchester."

Montgomery once was a teenage gunfighter. Just part-time, and just play-like, but it was a living.

Montgomery, gray-bearded at 46, said he's been thinking a lot lately about those days when he worked as a gunfighter at a Western theme park in Apache Junction, Arizona.

Singers raise money

LONDON, April 15, (AP) Singers Phil Collins and Eartha Kitt were among the entertainers Terry-Thomas, whose Parkinson's disease has left him severely in need.

Sunday's five-hour show at the 2,600-seat Theatre Royal raised more than \$100,000 with about half going to Terry-Thomas, said Jack Douglas, the British actor who helped organise the sold-out event.

The rest of the proceeds will be divided between the London-based Parkinson's Disease Society and the Entertainment Artist's Benevolent Fund, Douglas said.

IUDs are best

CHICAGO, April 15, (AP) Intrauterine birth control devices are best for women in stable relationships who have had all the children they want, a medical panel said yesterday.

"It's a limited endorsement, but on the other hand, there's a large number of women who fit the criteria we set out for patient selection," said Dr William Scott, who chaired the American Medical Association panel that reviewed medical literature on IUDs and released its finding in yesterday's journal of the AMA.

Parents should relax

CHICAGO, April 15, (AP) Dr Benjamin Spock, the 86-year-old patriarch of child-care advice, says parents should relax so their children can.

"Children responded to the tensions of parents, not the tensions in society," the white-bearded physician and child psychiatrist said today.

"We've got to take the pressure off kids."

Spock was in Chicago to open a field museum on natural history exhibition on families. He told parents they should teach their children the spirit of co-operation.

100th episode celebrated

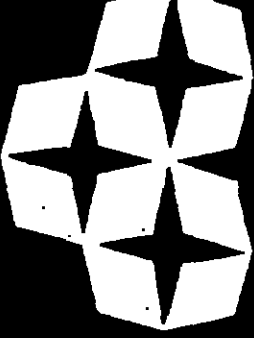
LOS ANGELES, April 15, (AP) It was "The Golden Girls" big night out and the now-closed Coconut Grove Nightclub was returned to its one-time splendor for a black-tie gala to celebrate the popular television comedy's 100th episode.

The show's stars, Bea Arthur, Estelle Getty, Rue McClanahan and Betty White, joined Walt Disney studio's chief Michael Eisner, National Broadcasting Company President Brandon Tartikoff and several hundred staff members and associates today in toasting the Emmy award-winning programme.


Gene identified

WASHINGTON, April 15, (AP) A gene that is thought to be responsible for the development of colon cancer has been identified by researchers.

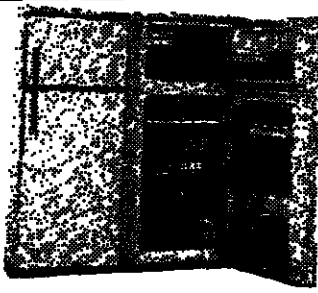
In a study published yesterday in the Journal Science, researchers from Maryland, Texas and Utah report that a gene called P53 tends to be found in a mutated form in colon cancer tumours.




SAMSUNG



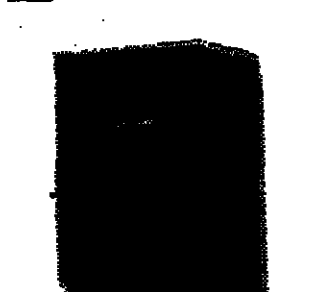
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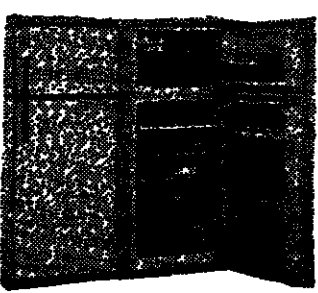
SR-248
10 CU.FT 2 door refrigerator complete frost-free operation with hot line and damper system.




SR-461
16 CU.FT — super deluxe — 2 door refrigerator — complete frost free fully automatic defrost re-start and temperature control — height adjustable front legs and rollers.



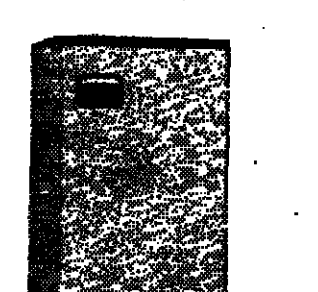
SR-699 HG
3 CU.FT — counter — built in freezer compartment — full range temperature thermostat door storage with separate egg/butter holder.



SR-218
9 CU.FT — Compact 2 door refrigerator, compact and elegant design — large freezer and refrigerator compartments with large slide vegetable crisper — chilling compartment — fully automatic defrost — re-start — temperature control — glossy ABS food liner and door panel.



SR-368
14 CU.FT — operation with hot line and damper system — Fully automatic defrost re-start — temperature control — height adjustable.



SR-120 HG
5 CU.FT — deluxe counter — high refrigerator with table top compact dimensions and ample storage space — wide range temperature control — with defrost function.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regular meetings

A COMMITTEE set up to develop the administrative staff of the Ministry of Education is holding regular meetings to formulate plans within the framework of the general policy of the state.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Abdul Rahman Al Khudari, said that the committee had prepared a survey study of the various departments and staff.

The committee, comprised of experts from the ministry and those from other specialisations, agreed to accord priority to the needs of different educational areas in order to develop administrative and organisational work, Khudari added.

Gas distribution

ONE of the workers at a gas distribution centre said that the centre distributes double the amount of gas cylinders during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The centre distributed between 600 and 750 gas cylinders per day before Ramadan, and distributes between 1150 and 1,250 cylinders during the Ramadan period, the worker said.

During the Ramadan period, workers at these centres work two shifts. The first from 7.00 am to 5.30 pm and the second from 7.30 after iftar until 11.00 pm.

Ibrahim Ahmad, another worker, said that those who fast believe that they will consume a lot of food between the iftar and sohour meals. Therefore, we witness more cooking in households. Additionally, according to Ramadan traditions followed in most Islamic countries, people invite each other during this period and this contributes to the higher rate of gas consumption for preparing dishes for the numerous visitors.

Fined for forgery

TWO defendants were fined KD2,500 each on charges of using an imitation trade mark.

The court heard that the two who were identified as "A" and "K" were fixing a well-known trade mark on a fake ladies night dresses.

The judgement of the court included also the destruction of all the fake night dresses which were in possession of the defendants.

15 years jail

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a pharmacist to 15 years in jail with hard labour and a high fine on the charge of practising as an illegal abortionist.

The defendant admitted that he had accepted the sum of KD750 in return for performing an illegal operation on a client who wanted to get rid of her illegal baby.

The defendant arranged to meet her at his residence and performed the miscarriage for money.

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KOTC studying international oil transport service

Official foresees shortage of oil tankers

THE Chairman of the Board at the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company Abdul Fattah Al Bader has said that the world will witness over the next two years a crisis involving the scarcity of giant oil-tankers, similar to that in the seventies.

He told a local daily that the going rental rates of oil-tankers might quadruple and that the company was conducting a study to determine the feasibility of going into foreign investments through starting an international oil transport service.

He pointed out that three Korean-made Kuwaiti tankers had been operated as part

of the company's fleet, and that the expansion of the company's existing fleet had cost \$132 million.

He said one of these tankers was designed with a capacity of 120,000 tons, and the other two were only 35,000 tons each, and that all would be used to transport refined oil through the Suez Canal.

He pointed out that the newly-built Kuwaiti oil-tankers were equipped with a computerised fault-finding system, which could also identify the problem area and the required mechanical maintenance.

He added that the system was designed

to forecast potential techno-mechanical failures, and that these tankers as such were the best in the world.

Market situation

He said the company's fleet contained 30 tankers with 2,562,195 tons for its total load capacity with a total market price of more than KD200 millions.

He pointed out that the current market situation was unstable and that this was clearly visible in the case of crude oil, and that the existing number of oil-tankers in the world could not meet the transport demand. The situation is likely to

deteriorate in the future, he added.

Bader said the company had of late begun to reduce the cost of its operational services and managed to arrive at prices deemed to be the best in the world.

He added that the transport cost per ton of oil was \$18 in 1980, compared to \$10 now, which followed the reduction of operating staff to 18 instead of 30.

He also said that the oil consumption per day by tankers had also been reduced, which dropped from 80 tons to 28 to 32 tons for a tanker designed to carry 120 tons of oil.

Drug problem cause for concern, says official

ADEL BOURESLI, director of Drugs and Alcohol Prosecution Department announced yesterday that the drug problem in Kuwait is attaining dangerous proportions.

He admitted the presence of some "organised but individual activities" for smuggling drugs and liquor into Kuwait. However, he said that according to official statistics, liquor smuggling attempts have been continually foiled by security personnel.

Bouresli added that the problem of drug addiction in Kuwait though limited and confined to some sections of expatriates and very few Kuwaitis, is still cause for some concern.

He said that drug combating departments, securitymen and customs officials have played a great role in containing the drug problem. But, he warned that smugglers have recently greatly

modified their smuggling techniques and methods.

He warned that the problem will not be over without a total understanding and awareness by the public as to dangers of drugs and alcohol. He refuted allegations that securitymen baselessly arrest people and accuse them of trading in drugs. These accusations are only circulated by some lawyers and some drug addicts and courts finally convict any accused only after conclusive evidence has been proved.

Although Bouresli admitted that there were some attempts to smuggle huge quantities of drugs into Kuwait, no international gangs or operators are involved. What is present, is individual smuggling attempts, he said.

Kuwait law punished all persons found in a place prepared for imbibing drugs. Persons found with drug addicts are liable to a maximum of one year in jail and a fine of KD1,000 or either.

Study on employment in computer field completed

By Jamal Amin

THE national centre for computers and microfilms has recently completed a study on developing employment systems for government technical staff in the computer and microfilm field, according to an official source.

Speaking to Seyassah, Suleiman Naser Al Zayed, Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Planning for computers and microfilms affairs said that the ministry is now planning to implement the recommendations of the study.

He added that the study disputed the current employment system for workers working in this field of specialisation and has also made recommendations to resolve the lack of technical staff.

Zayed explained that the study aims at developing the utilisation of technical staff in the computers and microfilm fields through providing intensive training, incentives, and an awareness of the importance of having Arab expertise in this highly confidential areas of work.

Municipality regulates food shops

KUWAIT Municipality continues to hold meetings with various organisations to establish implementation of practical methods for storage, sale and regulations related to shops dealing in food.

With this objective, the municipality is in the process of continuing holding ongoing meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Public Health, Kuwait Union of Food Producers and Traders, Kuwait Co-operative Societies, food importing firms and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

According to a Kuwait Municipality source, the department of health affairs, the authority in charge of conducting the meetings is seeking to collect views,



Farmers tending their wheat crop.

Wheat experiment shows good results

Total area of 616 hectares farmed

PRELIMINARY results of the ongoing wheat cultivation experiment in Kuwait has shown very encouraging results, according to a senior agricultural source.

Speaking on future development plans, Jassem Al Bader, Director of the Botanical Department at the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth said that one year is too short a period to conclusively evaluate the success of the cultivation plan. The experiment should continue for a further three to five years in order to obtain a comprehensive report and provide farmers with enough

experience during this period to develop their expertise in the cultivation of wheat.

Additionally, the extension of the experiment will provide the opportunity to those farmers who did not participate during the first year to involve themselves in the years to come.

Unique

The experiment in Kuwait is a unique one at the level of the Arab Gulf area because farms in Kuwait are different from farms in other Gulf areas in relation to area of farms, irrigation systems, quality of water and weather conditions, Bader said.

He said the authority offers advice and instructions to farmers as to the best methods to cultivate wheat. In the first year's experiment, 239 Kuwaiti farmers were involved and cultivated a total area of 616 hectares. The authority distributed about 100,000 kilos of seeds, 62,580 kilos of urea fertilisers and 191,350 kilos of nitrovisca fertilisers to farmers.

The authority has completed preparations for harvesting the wheat. It has made available 15 combines of middle size and six automatic combines as well as 15 threshing machines at Wafra and Abdali farms.

AMC works for Muslims in Africa

KUWAIT, April 15. (KUNA): Secretary-general of African Muslims' Committee (AMC) Dr Abdel Rahman Sumait praised the facilities accorded to the committee by the government of Kuwait, noting that the committee has plans to increase its budget to KD35 million (\$100 million).

Dr Sumait, who has recently concluded an African tour for charitable purposes, told KUNA the AMC presently supervises 1650 preachers and teachers as well as bureaus in 31 African countries.

During his tour, which covered Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda and Malawi, Dr Sumait said he had talks with African officials and reviewed with them the committee's future projects.

The AMC, he said, had established a shareholding company that was registered in Luxembourg to invest donations with the aim of proliferating the committee's financial resources.

Kuwait Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Sumait added, issued a Fatwa (Islamic opinion) permitting people's giving of their Zakat (alms) funds to the committee.

Dr Sumait said the committee's call for Islam in Africa goes beyond words to deeds and practical accomplishments for needy Africans, particularly development projects in the remote villages and the countryside.

Many African tribes, he elaborated, changed their hostile stand toward Islam as soon as they became aware of Islamic teachings and principles.

Over the AMC's future plans, Dr Sumait said the committee is considering construction of six orphanages, 25 mosques and three Islamic centres in Kenya.

It will also sponsor a number of university students in Tanzania and Uganda and will also send more preachers and teachers to various parts of Africa, he said.

Two new Islamic centres will be run by the committee in Zambia and another major one in Uganda, said Dr Sumait who added that the AMC had bought 10 thousand agricultural instruments to be granted to Ugandan refugees.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Gulf Air makes major investment

GULF AIR will be spending \$1 billion (BD377 billion) to purchase 18 new aircraft in a bid that will make it the biggest investment in its history. The announcement was made following an extraordinary meeting of the region's national carrier's board of directors in Doha early this week.

The ambitious investment is part of Gulf Air's expansion and fleet development plans by the middle of the next decade. It will include doubling the airline's fleet with the acquisition of 12 Airbus A-320s and six Boeing 767-300s.

According to Ali Ibrahim Al Malki, President and Chief Executive of Gulf Air, the investment will increase the airline's fleet to 40 by 1995.

Recently, Gulf Air signed a syndicated loan agreement involving a host of major Arab, European, American and Japanese banks worth a total of \$280 million to buy our new Boeing 767-300s.

The airline has also taken out an option on buying six Airbus A-320s and 12 Boeing 767-300s.

Gulf Air also announced expenditure on new uniforms for its staff including cabin crew and engineers. The new light blue and light pink uniforms designed by Bolonclopa of France will be used by April next year.

Minister of Development and Industry, Yousuf Shirawi, who attended the meeting praised the airline's good reputation in securing the recent loan agreement to fund the investment.

In another development Gulf Air will introduce direct service to the Philippines from this Sunday. The airline will be flying two 767s direct to Manila twice a week, with a third flight stopping in Bangkok.

Gulf Hotel makes record profit

THE Gulf Hotel, Bahrain's first five star hotel, has made record profit with the best achievements in its history in 1988 according to its board of directors.

The announcement was made by Ahmed Ali Kanoo, Chairman of Bahrain Hotels Company, which owns the luxury hotel, at a press conference, Wednesday of the hotel.

Gulf Hotel, which opened in 1969 on reclaimed land, registered a net profit of BD2,002,240 for 1988, an increase of 74 per cent over the preceding year. Revenue increased by 15 per cent to BD8,642,888 during the same period. Room occupancy was claimed to be 89 per cent compared to 88 per cent in 1987.

The company declared a dividend of 15 per cent (BD1,272,672) for 1988 as compared to 12 per cent in the previous year and allocated a further sum of BD20,000 from the profit towards charity.

Policy

According to Kanoo, the hotel maintained its policy of upgrading facilities by completely refurbishing the Awaal Ballroom recently and replacing the telephone system with a modern computerised digital system. He said plans are also under way for complete refurbishment and decoration of the great guest rooms and public area during the fiscal year 1989/90.

The chairman stated that the company, in keeping with the Bahrainisation policy to encourage employment to locals in the hotel industry, has recently sponsored further education of two more Bahrainis in the UK.

He further added that Bahrain Hotels Company, in view of the government's regulation enforcing all public companies to invest their shares in the newly opened Stock Exchange, will abide by the regulation and float the company's shares in the stock market.

The Bahrain government is the majority shareholder of Gulf Hotel, owning 42 per cent of the shares, while Gulf Airways is a 11 per cent shareholder.

Bahrain combats drug abuse

Victims generally aged between 16-30

By Yakub Razzaque
Arab Times staff

BAHRAIN has been successfully combating the problem of drug abuse since launching an extensive anti-drug campaign a few years back according to a top health official.

Dr Khalil Al Haddad, chairman of Psychiatric Hospital, highlighted the problem of drug-abuse, its roots and the forms of treatment rendered to victims in the island in an exclusive interview with the Arab Times.

Bahrain, like other Gulf states and societies world-wide, has its drug problem. However, like its neighbours the island is least affected by this evil. Twenty years ago drug-taking, which was used specifically for medicinal purposes, particularly by senior citizens, was seen as a normal mode accepted by the society at large in the country. It was part of the culture and social norms. Unfortunately, because of social, political and economic factors which influenced a dramatic change in life-style and habits, drug-taking led to negative consequences, explained Dr Haddad.

According to him Bahraini drug-users have been traditionally those of Iranian extraction. He attributed the continuous use of drugs today in the country to this section of the nationals.

Triangle

"Iran has been one of the traditional outlets of hard-core drugs in the region as part of the 'Crescent Triangle' which also includes Turkey and Pakistan. The Iranian revolution was also responsible for the outbreak of drug-taking on a huge scale, when millions of its people took to opium and heroin. This explains why most of the drug-addicts here are of Persian origin," said Dr Haddad.

Dr Haddad said alcohol and opium are the two common drugs consumed in Bahrain. He added that alcohol, which is officially allowed, but controlled — a 'defacto situation' — is also a form of drug which affects the consumers negatively, while opium is taken as an aphrodisiac.

Dr Haddad further explained that between 1979-81 there was not a single case of heroin drug-abuser in the country. The problem of drug-abuse in general and with heroin in particular, he added, began in 1981.

"It all started in the early 80's following the oil boom in the seventies. The sudden influx of money improved and changed the lifestyle financially of the general population and of the youth in particular. Young men suddenly found themselves with a load of money to spend. Consequently they began to travel increasingly to places like the Southeast Asia for all sorts of pleasures. Invariably they came in contact with drugs. Southeast Asia is of course notorious for the cultivation and supply of hard-core drugs, notably from the 'Golden Triangle' area. Our young men were easy prey and began to bring drugs home," commented Dr Haddad.

Alarm

He said after the American government enforced a clampdown on drug smuggling on a large scale, a new route was created in the Gulf by the smugglers.

"The Gulf youth were lured into hard-core drugs by the 'spill-over' generated by the abundance of ready money poured into this lucrative market and financial incentives to become rich quickly. The local scene, therefore, proved to be a bonanza for both users and suppliers," said Dr Haddad.

According to the chairman of Bahrain's Psychiatric Hospital, drug-taking reached alarming proportions in the country during 1983 when a total of about 3,000 victims were affected. The figure increased to 4,200 in 1984. There has been a gradual decline in the number of addicts since then. In 1988 only 49 people were under treatment for drugs, while about 250 are classified as 'old users'. Drug victims were generally aged between 16-30, he said.

The government built a specific unit for the treatment of drug-abusers at the Psychiatric Hospital. The unit called 'Al-Ghazali', said to be the only one of its kind in the region, receives all drug-victims in the country to undergo various forms of treatment.

Dr Haddad said as part of general treatment and rehabilitation programme, the unit initially introduced the 'Methodone Treatment' or 'Replacement Therapy', modelled on Western application, to cure patients afflicted with opium and heroin abuse. Although the treatment proved to be expensive, it was a reasonable success.

Licensed drugs

"In a way we experimented with this form of treatment which was new to both doctors and patients here. We relied on an open-door policy, whereby patients were to come to us voluntarily and take medication," said Dr Haddad. However, he added, the Methodone treatment, had its disadvantages in the sense that it led to 'licensed drug-taking' and thus created a market on its own. Patients would start selling their medicine to others, who in turn would become 'hooked' on the drug.

The unit then began a more rigid approach in treating the drug-abusers by enforcing a strict set of rules, including limited visits by relatives and closure of the ward to the public.

A new treatment called 'Objective Withdrawal Scale' was introduced, comprising a set of 25 withdrawal symptoms, which included severe, moderate and mild cases. This treatment, enforced in-patient rule, according to Dr Haddad, proved to be a great success as the majority of the patients did not experience any severe withdrawal symptoms.

The Psychiatric Hospital, with the aid of its unique clinic, also introduced the 'Milieu Therapy' according to its chairman.

There has been an utmost need to change the behaviour of the patient, which is vital for this treatment. The patient must be strongly motivated to get well. Everything else will fail if he does not wish to be cured. Drug addiction becomes a symptom of disturbed behaviour, so we try to change the patient's behaviour against drugs," said Dr Haddad.

Under this programme the patient is subjected to rigorous group therapy when he is involved in 'confrontation sessions' with his fellow sufferers led by his doctor. Patients are also encouraged to utilise their time and mind to perform tasks under occupational therapy, so as to eventually rehabilitate them for normal working life outside.

Patients undergoing drug-treatment at the unit usually spend between six to eight weeks before being cured and released.

Dr Haddad said that although the problem of drugs in Bahrain has been drastically minimised it will always remain a threat so long it remains unchecked. He particularly praised the island's police force for their co-operation and efforts in combating drugs and guiding the victims to receive proper treatment.

هكذا انت الاصل

MIDEAST

King Hassan's envoy to sound Arabs on summit

RABAT, April 15, (Reuters): King Hassan of Morocco has sent his closest adviser to sound out Arab leaders on the possibility of an emergency Arab summit next month on the Palestinian question, diplomatic sources say.

Ahmed Reda Guedira, the king's senior political counsellor since 1972, left on his mission to Middle East capitals soon after an unexpected six-hour visit to

Morocco by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Arafat, who is chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and has been named president of the self-declared independent Palestine state, cut short a visit to Poland on Tuesday to fly to Rabat, telling reporters the king had requested a meeting.

A senior Palestinian source said that discussions centred on

the possibility of holding an emergency summit in Morocco if it proves impossible to hold the ordinary summit in Saudi Arabia which many Arab leaders are hoping for.

Diplomatic sources say inter-Arab tensions are likely to prevent the convening of an ordinary summit, but Arafat needs the support of the Arab world to resist Washington pressure for more concessions and

keep his own radicals at bay.

Egypt, the only Arab country to have made peace with Israel, would be invited to Morocco although it has not yet been readmitted to the Arab League.

Last week, King Hassan sent his Foreign Minister, Abdellatif Filali, to Damascus. According to senior diplomatic sources he secured an undertaking that President Hafez Al Assad would

not boycott a Moroccan summit to which Egypt was invited.

Syria cut ties with Morocco in 1986 in protest over the Moroccan monarch's meeting with Shimon Peres, then Israeli prime minister. They were restored in January after mediation by Saudi Arabia.

King Hassan strongly supports recent initiatives of the PLO including recognition of Israel's right to exist.

"No-one can any longer deny the positive and constructive nature of the positions they (the Palestinians) keep taking for the sake of peace," the king said in a speech last month.

"In order to give more weight to the actions and new approaches of the Palestinians, many Arab heads of state, among whom we count ourselves, think the time has come for the holding of an Arab summit," he added.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Mitterrand to meet Arafat

PARIS, April 15, (Reuters): Arab ambassadors in France yesterday greeted President Francois Mitterrand's decision to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat with "great satisfaction."

The statement from the Arab diplomatic corps described the planned meeting as "a concrete and positive contribution towards peace and security in the Middle East."

Mitterrand agreed earlier this month to hold talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, but no date has yet been set.

Jewish community leaders have reacted angrily to the plan.

Human rights violations

NICOSIA, Cyprus, April 15, (AP): The president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe said yesterday he will raise the issue of human rights violations in Cyprus by Turkey before the assembly on his return.

"I hope that my visit to Cyprus will prove fruitful," he said in a departure statement after a three-day visit as the guest of the Cyprus House of Representatives.

"The present situation in Cyprus is a test for the whole policies of Europe... the confrontation line I saw in Cyprus is a true drama," he added.

Algeria's toxic river

ALGIERS, April 15, (Reuters): Algeria's biggest river is so toxic it is leaving a trail of death and poisoning drinking and irrigation water, the official APS News Agency said yesterday.

"Gases given off are progressively destroying the local ecology, while toxic waste is contaminating the water table making it unfit for human consumption or irrigation," APS said.

Cypriot tanker ablaze

ALGIERS, April 15, (Reuters): A tug was fighting a blaze yesterday aboard a Cypriot tanker under tow off the coast of Algeria, the official news agency APS reported.

The 34-man crew abandoned ship after a fire started on Thursday aboard the Zephyr, carrying 78,000 tonnes of crude oil. The agency said no one was hurt.

Fundamentalists demonstrate

KHARTOUM, Sudan, April 15, (AP): Several thousand Muslim fundamentalists demonstrated after Friday noon prayers, calling for the implementation of the Islamic law, witnesses said.

The witnesses, who declined to be named, said that several thousand supporters of the fundamentalist National Islamic Front marched to the attorney general's office, protesting a vote in Parliament on Monday to postpone debate on sharia or Islamic law until after the convening of a national constitutional conference.

Heppburn cuts short tour

MUGLAD, Sudan, April 15, (AP): Special UNICEF ambassador Audrey Heppburn yesterday cut short a tour to review progress of a massive international relief operation for starving Sudanese in the south after rebels there refused to give her flight safe conduct.

Bryan Wannop, head of Sudan's United Nations Development Programme and co-ordinator of the relief operation, told reporters accompanying Miss Heppburn that to the last minute, the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army had not given a firm safe conduct for the plane which had been scheduled to fly to government-held Aweil in the southern Bahr El-Ghazal region and then to nearby rebel-held Akon.

Murderers beheaded

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia, April 15, (Reuters): Three convicted murderers were beheaded in Saudi Arabia yesterday, the Interior Ministry said.

Saudi Arabia has now reported executing 11 criminals since the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan began in the kingdom on April 6.

The ministry's statement, carried by local newspapers, said Saleh Ameer Fahd, a Saudi, and Mohammed Fakher, a Pakistani, were beheaded in Makkah and Babker Awad, a Sudanese, was beheaded in Riyadh.

'Peace talks must achieve results'

Khamenei blames Iraq for deadlock

NICOSIA, April 15, (AP): Iranian President Ali Khamenei said today the United Nations must ensure that upcoming peace talks between Iran and Iraq make progress, state-run Tehran Radio reported.



Khamenei

Speaking at Friday prayers at the Tehran University campus, Khamenei said, "International authorities must be careful that the talks are not futile. And the world and the two countries are not kept waiting."

The radio said Khamenei blamed Iraq for the deadlock in three previous rounds of UN-sponsored talks.

"The talks must be serious. But unfortunately the Iraqi regime does not take them seriously. And attaining a lasting peace is apparently not a serious goal for the Iraqis," it quoted him as saying.

Direct peace talks between Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz, will resume April 20 in Geneva, the UN announced on Thursday.

The talks will be mediated by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Peace talks started five days after a UN-mediated ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war took effect last Aug 20, but stalled immediately.

Iraq called for dredging of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, its outlet to the Gulf, while Iran

insisted that Iraqi troops withdraw to pre-war borders before talks could proceed.

Two subsequent rounds of talks, the last in November, were unable to break the stalemate.

Khamenei reiterated Iran's position on troop withdrawals, saying, "If the Iraqi regime is serious about the talks, then the first step towards this is the evacuation of Iranian soil by Iraqi troops, and withdrawal to internationally recognised boundaries," the radio reported.

The UN statement on Thursday also emphasised "the need for withdrawal without delay to the internationally recognised

boundaries, the release and repatriation of the prisoners of war, and the speedy beginning of the mediation efforts" for a lasting peace.

Iraq still occupies at least 1,000 square kilometres (260 square miles) of Iranian territory, according to UN estimates.

The UN statement also noted that "pragmatic arrangements, particularly with regard to the economic life of the two countries, may well be needed to hasten the return to normality."

That was a clear reference to Iraq's demand on dredging the Shatt Al Arab, clogged by an eight-year accumulation of silt, sunken ships and ordnance.

Khamenei also quashed recent speculation that Velayati's position had weakened in a recent purge of so-called pragmatists in the Iranian leadership.

"The Foreign Ministry, and the foreign minister himself is trusted by the leader, authorities and people of Iran, and must participate in these talks knowing that he is backed by the people," the radio said.

Iran's UN Ambassador, Mohammad Jafar Mahallati and Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larjani were both dropped last month.

Both officials were considered close associates of Velayati, and were instrumental in winning Iranian acceptance of the ceasefire.



Palestinians bow in prayers outside the Old City walls in East Jerusalem after they were refused entry into the Temple Mount for Friday prayers. The group is praying outside the Damascus Gate. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chad foils coup bid, plotters flee to Sudan

PARIS, April 15, (AP): Chad has reported a failed coup against President Hissene Habre. Sudan says the leaders — two generals and the interior minister — fled into its territory.

A government statement released Thursday night through Chad's embassy in France, the former colonial power in the North African nation, said the plotters "entered into rebellion against the institutions of the republic" on the night of April 1-2.

It identified them as Hassan Djamous, armed forces commander; Idriss Debi, his predecessor in the post, and Ibrahim Mahamat Ino, the interior minister, characterising all three as "individuals motivated and manipulated by overwhelming ambition."

Israeli forces admit 'faults'

Four killed in Nahalin

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 15, (Reuters): The head of Israel's paramilitary border police said yesterday his men made mistakes during a bloody raid on a West Bank village of Nahalin.

Hospitals meanwhile said that a Palestinian died of wounds from a clash last week, and that troops wounded 17 others in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during protests over Nahalin, where at least four Palestinians were killed and 15 wounded on Thursday.

Fourteen-year-old Maher Shalbak of Jemm died of bullet wounds in the head, a Rambam hospital spokesman said, bringing the death toll in the 16-month uprising to at least 432 Palestinians. Seventeen Israelis have also died.

"There is no doubt there were faults in Nahalin. They must be examined and conclusions drawn," border police commander Meshulam Amit said in a telephone interview.

The army launched an immediate investigation of the pre-dawn clash which Palestinians said took five lives. An Arab eyewitness said an Army officer came to blows with border guards who had refused a command to leave the area, his lawyer said.

The International Committee for the Red Cross condemned Israeli police yesterday for opening fire "without discrimination and without restraint" in the village of Nahalin near Bethlehem.

An Army-appointed commission of inquiry went to Nahalin yesterday to interview residents and collect evidence.

Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a television interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation from Jerusalem that the border police acted in self-defence.

"They were attacked with Molotov cocktails. They were attacked with lethal weapons," he said.

Troops shot dead an unidentified 16-year-old Palestinian in the West Bank town of Nablus last night after their patrol was stoned, military sources said.

Palestinians in the territories sent a memorandum to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday demanding UN protection for Palestinian lives and property.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij met 12 Nahalin villagers and heard accounts of the clash. He said he will ask Israeli officials to appoint a supreme court justice to investigate the incident.

Iraq to stage arms fair

BAGHDAD, April 15, (Reuters): Arms manufacturers from around the world will display their wares at a major weapons fair in Baghdad later this month, but the United States and the Soviet Union will not be exhibiting.

Iraq said today the two superpowers had not responded to invitations to take part in the exhibition from April 28 to May 2.

Britain, China, Egypt, France, Poland, West Germany and Yugoslavia will be among those exhibiting, with the British showing their Harrier jump-jet and the French their Mirage 2000 jet.

Lieutenant-General Amer Al Saadi, under-secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation, said Iraq would display the home-produced missile which it used in the war against Iran.

He told a news conference that Iraq was keen to sell its military products to other Arab and Third World states.

Fighting escalates: UN

Major supply route to Kabul reopens

UNITED NATIONS, April 15, (UPI): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said yesterday fighting has escalated in Afghanistan and more Afghans fled that country one year after the Geneva Accords were signed ending the Soviet presence there.

"It is with deep regret that I have to reiterate my grave concern at the escalation of the fighting, the continued suffering of the Afghan people and the heavy toll of casualties," Perez de Cuellar said on the first anniversary of the accords.

"Not only have the millions of Afghan refugees been unable to return to their homeland, but we have been witnessing an increase in their numbers due to the escalation of the fighting and the destruction of their homes and property," he said.

The UN executive chief called on the signatories to implement "scrupulously and faithfully" the accords.

Earlier the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Abdul Wakil, appealed to the United States to meet its obligations and end its support to the Muslim rebels.

Wakil, who made a special trip to New York to urge UN action on ending the continuing civil war in Afghanistan, said he was prevented by the State Department to visit multi-millionaire industrialist Armand Hammer in Los Angeles.

Wakil said he planned to discuss humanitarian questions with Hammer and wanted to visit the industrialist in Los Angeles because Hammer could not come to New York. Hammer is head of the Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum and has visited

Troops uncover arms cache

KABUL, April 15, (Reuters): Security forces uncovered an arms cache including missiles smuggled into the Afghan capital by mujahedeen rebels, Kabul Radio said today.

It said nine ground-to-ground missiles, a launcher, ammunition and mines were found in a rebel "safe house."

The radio said the rebels, fighting to overthrow the pro-Soviet government of President Najibullah, planned to use the arms to cause destruction and death in the capital.

The mujahedeen have in the past rocketed Kabul from positions in surrounding mountains, mainly hitting civilians in this city of mud-brick houses.

Afghanistan several times in the past two years.

"Mr Hammer has a role to play in the establishment of peace in Afghanistan," Wakil said. "There are many questions to be discussed."

Wakil said Pakistan's "interventionist and aggressive policies" have violated the Geneva accords signed April 14, 1988 by the United States and the Soviet Union acting as guarantors. Afghanistan and Pakistan were the other signatories.

Wakil said only his and the Soviet governments "fully complied with the obligations and commitments arising from the Geneva agreement."

Meanwhile a large convoy carrying food and fuel to the Afghan capital broke through a blockade by rebels along a major supply route from the Soviet border yesterday.

The government also said another major supply route to the capital had been reopened yesterday, and trucks carried food and fuel to the besieged city of Jalalabad, which has been under rebel fire for more than five weeks.

The government said the convoy provided supplies to soldiers who had been depending on airlifted goods.

The convoy of up to 100 trucks and tanks pushed down the Salang highway that runs between Kabul and the Soviet border, to the north. The 450-kilometre (260-mile) road has been closed for a week by rebels hoping to starve the capital.

As the convoy moved slowly down the highway, soldiers fired from tanks and machine-gun posts into the surrounding mountains, where the rebels hide.

The shooting continued for nearly two hours, with thick black smoke billowing from the hills about 10 to 15 kilometres (six to 10 miles) away. Helicopter gunships also provided protection.

Several trucks appeared to have been damaged, and one truck was carrying several wounded people.

Diplomats who spoke on condition of not being identified said about 600 trucks were still stranded along the Salang.

Destroy

The armed forces were "ordered to destroy" the plotters and "put an end to the rebellion by annihilation," the statement said.

When asked what happened to the three men, the Canadian embassy in Paris would say only that the plot was discovered and the authors and their accomplices rendered harmless.

A statement released on Thursday night in Khartoum, capital of Sudan, said Ino, Djamous and Debi crossed into Darfur province a week ago. It was issued in the name of Tigani Syst, governor of the border province.

Sudan's military command issued a statement saying Chadian soldiers had intruded into Darfur and Sudanese soldiers were sent to expel them. It did not give the number of intruders, but the magazine Al Adwaa said 2,000 Chadian soldiers crossed the border.

Diplomatic sources in N. Dhamea, capital of Chad, said on April 5 that Ino was arrested and Djamous and Debi had disappeared.

Protest against arrest

ASSIUT, Egypt, April 15, (AP): More than 1,000 worshippers demonstrated outside a mosque yesterday protesting the arrest of a fundamentalist preacher but the appearance of police trucks on the scene forced them to disperse and drop plans for a street march, security sources said.

The sources estimated the congregation of Abu Bakr Al Siddik mosque at about 1,500 who said Friday noon prayers in the open just outside the small mosque building and then lapsed into anti-government chants.

Their slogans protested last week's arrest of Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, a blind preacher twice tried and acquitted of charges relating to Sadat's slaying and a failed coup attempt that followed.

Abdel Rahman was accused of being the spiritual leader of a clandestine extremist group called Jihad, which the government blamed for Sadat's assassination and the coup attempt.

The informants said about 2,000 policemen besieged the mosque area to prevent the shouting worshippers from taking to the streets in one body. Some worshippers threw stones at police, they said.

Lebanese in gloomy shelters show life goes on in the blitz

BEIRUT, April 15, (Reuters): "Do you, Jeanette, take George as your beloved husband?" asked Fr. Butros Khouri.

"Sorry... I can't hear you," shouted Jeanette, dressed in a white wedding gown, as the roar of exploding shells resounded through the East Beirut basement used as a family bomb shelter.

"I repeat: Do you... I pronounce you husband and wife... you may kiss the bride," said Fr. Khouri, as he hastily brought the service to an end.

A month-long bombardment in and around Beirut has forced more than million civilians to adapt to life in damp and gloomy shelters in basements and underground car parks.

After 14 years of civil war, the Lebanese are determined to prove one thing above all: life goes on.

"As I kissed Jeanette, a Stalin organ (a multi-barrelled rocket launcher) roared in the distance instead of Mendelssohn's wedding march," said 29-

year-old George Maqdasi, who works as a mechanic in peacetime.

"None of us is certain to survive this bloody war. We have been in love with each other since we were 14 and finally decided it is better to die married rather than apart."

The Christian Maronite couple had repeatedly postponed their church wedding ceremony because of the fighting in the capital.

"We spent the first three nights of our honeymoon in a corner in the shelter rather than a quiet hotel," said George.

Fighting which erupted on March 14, when Christian Army chief Michel Aoun sought to extend his power beyond the Christian enclave, has killed at least 182 people and wounded 650.

The shelter where the Maqdasi wedding took place was decorated with house plants and white ribbons collected from neighbours, who made up

the congregation along with passing strangers.

Afterwards, sweets and plastic cups of lemonade were served instead of cake and champagne.

Bishop George Saliba of the Syrian Orthodox Church in Lebanon told Reuters that none of the masses at his church in the Fanar neighbourhood of east Beirut had been cancelled.

"Baptisms, marriages, engagements take place along with burials," he said. "Life will go on despite everything."

But a wedding convoy caught out by shelling must either risk speeding to the church or stop to let people take cover.

Birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other family occasions are also being celebrated in shelters, which are increasingly furnished with televisions and chairs taken from homes. Many even

have telephones.

"What would you do if your wife was about to give birth to your first baby while shells are falling in their hundreds around the shelter you're hiding in?" asked Joseph Sourogian.

"It was impossible to take my wife to hospital. I called the doctor but he was probably also under cover. I tried another one but he was too scared to come. I had to do it myself."

Helped by a group of mothers and instructions given over the shelter telephone from another doctor, the baby was born safely.

"It was an unforgettable experience. I was sweating a lot and was scared to death but it was happy ending... we got a healthy baby girl and saved at least a thousand dollars in medical fees," he said.

Joseph and Gina named their baby Amal (hope) — in fervent hopes of a brighter and more peaceful future for her.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ONE great use of words is to hide our thoughts -
Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778)

Sectarian hatred
still rife in Belfast

By Paul Majendie

BELFAST, (Reuters): Someone somewhere always seems to be watching you in the bomb-blasted ghettos of Belfast. Not curtains twitch whenever a stranger walks by in neighbourhoods scarred by 20 years of sectarian warfare between Protestant and Catholic in Northern Ireland.

Curious teenagers, who may well be the IRA recruits of tomorrow, stand on deserted street corners, watching warily as you pass through their jealously guarded territory.

A British Army helicopter hovers constantly above, the whup-shipping of its propellers a perpetual soundtrack for the daily drama that pits police and troops against IRA guerrillas, Protestant paramilitaries against Irish nationalist gunmen.

Its cameras beam "heli-tele" images to British Army headquarters. Sometimes they may be just innocent shots of children playing in streets littered with broken glass, blackened by dozens of petrol bombs.

But last March they beamed back to base horrifying images of two British soldiers being attacked in their car, beaten by an enraged mob, stripped and shot dead after apparently straying into the path of an IRA funeral.

On the streets of west Belfast, teenage British soldiers look straight through you down the sights of their rifles. They are constantly on the lookout for snipers hidden down an alley, ready to pick out the vulnerable "tail-end Charlie" on a patrol.

Official eyes watch you from the tops of high-rise apartments where for safety's sake troops have to be flown in by helicopter to their surveillance posts. Even the car number plates of passing motorists are recorded for the computer.

Those high-rise "snooping posts" are a constant challenge to the IRA which recently occupied a vacant apartment directly underneath one of the surveillance teams.

The resulting bomb blew out the apartment's windows, terrified the old people living in the block but failed to injure any soldiers.

Police stations look like modern-day Wild West forts with their fortress walls and turrets topped by swivelling surveillance cameras. Wire mesh nets are put up to stop mortar attacks.

The border with the Irish Republic is dotted with watch towers to monitor the movements of Irish Republican Army guerrillas in their cat-and-mouse battle against Britain in the deadly "bandit country" on the frontier.

For the visitor wandering warily round Belfast's ghettos and the battlegrounds that have made headlines for two decades, there is never much confusion about whose territory you are in. Graffiti, kerbstones and flags make sure of that.

In a Protestant area, you are greeted by the chilling exhortation "don't be vague, kill a Taig (Catholic)."

In a nationalist ghetto, the wall-scrabblers crow over the shooting last month of two senior Northern Ireland police officers from the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). The grim scorecard reads "IRA 2, RUC 0."

Kerbstones are painted red, white and blue in the colours of Britain's Union Jack for the Protestant loyalist areas. The green, white and orange of the Irish Tricolour adorn nationalist pavements.

Flags are flown from high vantage points in a determined bid to enrage the opposing camp on the other side of the street.

"They mark out their territory like dogs piddling to put down their own marks. Here the people use aerosol cans but they are about as primitive as dogs," one long-time resident said sadly as he viewed ghettos with their hearts ripped out.

But there is a dash of colour amid all the drab gloom of bombed-out houses. Nationalists appear to believe in the motto "If it doesn't move, paint it."

Their ghettos are covered in dramatic murals glorifying the IRA cause, with guerrillas raising their rifles high and pledging "our day will come. Some have been daubed with orange paint, the colour of the Protestant unionists.

Sectarian hatred still burns as deep as acid, perhaps best illustrated in a drive down Duncairn Gardens, a war-weary street that in Army parlance is called an "interface" area - Protestants and Catholics live opposite each other.

You can plot that hatred all the way down the street with almost mathematical precision.

On one corner, a shop has been blasted by a bomb and left a shattered hulk. On the opposite side, three houses have been fire-bombed in retaliation. The pattern is constantly repeated.

But amid the despondency, a glimmer of Belfast's black humour does shine through. One tobacconist, with his windows barred up in readiness for the next riot, has christened his shop "The Last Chance."

Press review

Regret over Lebanon

KUWAIT, (KUNA): Local daily Al Rai Al Aam has expressed regret that another year began and no sign of reconciliation on the Lebanese crisis was reached.

The daily in a front page editorial said that the Lebanese wake up daily in both East and West Beirut on the sounds of explosions and gunfire, and there are some Lebanese factions that do not want the war to end and do not want to give concessions to save their own country.

There are also other factions which do not want the crisis to end and have a lot of demands which obstruct the exerted efforts to restore peace and stability in Lebanon, it went on.

The daily had hoped that with the start of another year Lebanon would have passed its ordeal, but regrettably the language of solution and reconciliation is not a language of a country that has got used to waking up on a blast.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1804 - War between British East India Company and Holkar of Indore begins in India.
- 1856 - Declaration of Paris abolishes privateering, defines nature of contraband and blockade, and recognises principle of "free ships, free goods."
- 1862 - France's Napoleon III declares war against Juarez, Mexican leader.
- 1906 - Pacific cable between United States and China is completed.
- 1917 - Nikolai Lenin returns to Russia after years of exile.
- 1922 - Treaty of Rapallo between Germany and Soviet Union recognises Soviet Union as a "great power" and leads to resumption of diplomatic and trade relations.
- 1942 - India's Congress rejects terms of self-government offered by Britain.
- 1945 - US troops enter Nuremberg, Germany, in World War II.
- 1947 - Fires and explosions wreck Texas City, Texas, as French freighter loaded with nitrate blows up, leaving eventual death toll of more than 500.
- 1964 - Nationalist leader Joshua Nkomo is placed under restriction in Southern Rhodesia.
- 1970 - Alpine avalanche plunges down on children's sanatorium, at Salanches, France, killing 72 people.
- 1972 - US Apollo 16 astronauts are launched toward moon from Cape Kennedy, Florida.
- 1975 - Kampuchea government in Phnom Penh asks for truce and offers to yield to communist forces sweeping into city.
- 1988 - Commando unit kills Palestine Liberation Organisation military commander in Tunis.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

Wait and see time on Soviets, says CIA director



CIA director William Webster and President George Bush.

IN an unusual interview Judge William Webster, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, discussed his agency's efforts to combat international terrorism, his assessment of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the situation in Eastern Europe, the problems of intrusive on-the-spot inspection of arms controls, CIA relations with the KGB, the power-play Col Muammar Khaddafi is engaged in and his own relationship with President George Bush.

Webster is an elegant, carefully dressed man who looks more like a distinguished banker than the chief of an intelligence agency. By profession he is a lawyer and judge and in answering questions he applies, not surprisingly, a judicious restraint, yet also a desire to be as communicative as his job allows him to be.

What interests the public most of all about the work of the intelligence agency today are its efforts to fight international terrorism.

"We can take great satisfaction from the fact," he says, "that last year we had no terrorist incidents in the United States, with the possible exception of two cases in Puerto Rico."

We do know, however, that there exists the infrastructure of a terrorist organisation in this country and when an incident occurs like the bombing attack on the Pan American plane 103, everybody wonders whether the attacks might not come to shift to the United States. Americans are still the principle target of terrorists - 25 to 35 per cent are directed against Americans, their property and institutions, but for the time being - they are all committed outside this country. In terms of preventing these attacks we are as well prepared today as we have ever been."

To the controversial question whether passengers, who booked on a specific airplane, should be told if there has been a terrorist threat against the plane or the airline, Webster said:

"If I were a passenger taking an airplane and the government knows that the airplane was targeted by a terrorist, I would want to know about it and I would also want to know that the government has taken appropriate steps to prevent the attack."

Actually, the lives lost in terrorist attacks is relatively low, certainly compared to road accidents or murders - that of course does not mean that one should discount terrorist acts. A threat to the right to travel, a cherished right of our citizens, must be met. What it requires is good intelligence and proper dissemination of threats to the institutions that are responsible for security of air travel under the guidance of the authorities concerned. What has helped to improve the situation is that countries who used to provide sanctuary in exchange for peace a few years ago, don't anymore and now help by co-operating with Interpol in the apprehension of these criminals.

There are still countries which are nervous about extradition, but they are nevertheless going far to bring criminal cases to the courts. One of the most frustrating labours is the identification of individual terrorists. But a good deal of progress has been made. Our data base is

much expanded and together with the British Constabulary we have been successful in developing physical facts that were particularly helpful to us. We have also established in CIA a countercentre and made good progress in interagency co-operation. Rashid, for instance, the bomb-maker is now languishing in a Greek jail. We watched him travel through several countries before we arrested him. It sometimes takes a long time before we have an opportunity to apprehend a terrorist, but we have had some successes, including criminal prosecutions.

Switching to his assessment of the situation in the Soviet Union and a remark George Kennan, the well known Sovietologist, made in testimony before Congress about the CIA's exaggerated estimates of Soviet military strength, Webster replied: "CIA has usually been accused of underestimating Soviet power and Soviet military spending, that is the first time the accusation was put that way."

Questioned whether he saw major changes in Soviet policy that would allow the United States to engage in similar major changes, the CIA director cautiously said: "It may still be too early to reach any conclusions, it is still wait and see time. But Gorbachev may indeed deliver on statements he has made about unilateral arms changes."

It's a matter of watching his feet, and I am reasonably satisfied that these changes will indeed take place. And as to the question about Gorbachev's prospects of staying in power: it's a very fair question that all the experts are now debating on a daily basis. His trip to Cuba was his first trip that was less than triumphant expedition. When he advanced the glas-

nost policy and perestroika, he let something important out of the bottle. He has two Achilles heels to cope with. One are the Baltic countries and Armenia and Azerbaijan and the other whether the Brezhnev doctrine will still obtain when a situation occurs where in the Brezhnev days Soviet troops would invade the country.

In the Baltic states and Armenia and Azerbaijan if demonstration took place Brezhnev would probably have intervened but there was no interference by Gorbachev and I don't think that will change. Gorbachev has demonstrated remarkable survival abilities in the last two years even when he was severely challenged. Each time he managed to add new sinews of power to himself.

At the same time there have been surprises that he had to contend with, such as the recent local elections which testified to the widespread dissatisfaction with living conditions. The defeat of the party candidates in Leningrad was particularly striking. Yet, Gorbachev showed that he can live with these events. "So far I have seen no positive signs that perestroika has had any positive results, but they leave him vulnerable to the conservatives returning to the attack against him."

To rule him out because of these setbacks however, would be a mistake. "It is particularly interesting that this is the view of Webster. He clearly rates Gorbachev strength as a leader higher than many Sovietologists do today."

Regarding operational changes by the KGB and Soviet intelligence, Webster suggested that the KGB is now more aggressive than it used to be in its intelligence collection efforts inside the US and in the world, but that at the same

time it is less confrontational than it used to be. "It is understandable," he explained, "for when you prepare yourself for the future, when the opportunities for surprise are greater and when you want to keep up with the latest technology, it inevitably means heavy efforts in stealing technology."

Glasnost

On the other hand glasnost has led to the meeting between the Soviet KGB chief and our ambassador to Moscow, Matlock, who asked for contacts that I cannot discuss. They are a new kind of testing the waters. There have also been some indications that more co-operation in the tracking down of terrorists may become possible, though there is the problem that what a terrorist is for one side is a volunteer fighter for the other.

It raises a whole new issue: relations between intelligence agencies. Webster also expects that the scrutiny of Soviet citizens may well be shifted to another agency to shrink the overall centralisation of the power of the KGB. Webster does not consider Chubrikov, the former head of the KGB an active opponent of Gorbachev, nor does he consider him a source of opposition to him.

At this point I picked up an earlier remark Webster had made, namely, that the arms control agreements if consummated since they will call for intrusive on-the-spot inspections will create problems and trouble for the CIA. Some of these measures will include continuous on-site monitoring of designated military facilities, short-notice inspections and so-called "challenge" inspections at sites where covert, illegal actions are suspected. It was the conservatives in the Pentagon and in Congress that clamoured for the most rigid verification measures.

But when the Soviets showed unexpected flexibility, willingness to go ahead with on-site inspections, it provoked a change of mind among them earlier they had said that on-site inspection was the only way to keep the Soviets from cheating, but now they argue that it could be dangerous to American security.

It was for that reason that I wondered how the CIA director viewed this issue, and whether on-site inspection made the world indeed safer but within the US less safe.

Conceal

"In the discussions the Soviets have embraced on-site inspection to a degree that we would not have anticipated," Webster said, "I don't think that any of those, such as Richard Perle, who were the spokesmen for such inspection, anticipated the sudden yes, yes from the Soviets. There are concerns among those with defence responsibilities that this may indeed be difficult if not dangerous for us to go the whole hog if they can get too much of an insight into our defence strategies, the locations of our more sensitive operations which are well known, but not subject to inspection."

The Soviets have their wasteland to conceal much of what they do and we would have rather uneven playing fields if inspections were based on total

reciprocity as a confidence builder it is not a substitute for other means of verification. It is a way of reassuring ourselves that the other side is telling the truth. To give them unrestricted access to some of our most sensitive areas would be a heavy price to pay for. It is a tough trade-off. The hope is that a sense of security would follow confidence procedures."

What has now become obvious is that the Reagan administration, by promoting verification as an end in itself, has obscured for years the risks involved in on-site inspection and the basic trade-offs between fail-safe verification and flexibility in arms control. The problem of balancing the need for intrusion against concerns about espionage will become far more obvious if and when a START agreement for a 50 per cent reduction of strategic nuclear missiles is reached.

Webster is worried about Col. Khaddafi's acquisition of Soviet medium-range bombers which will enable him to become a bigger player in the Middle East, but, he also pointed out, the Libyan has suffered setback, with his chemical plant, which may force him to close it. He was satisfied, though, that the disclosure of his building a chemical plant for chemical warfare and his acquiring long-range bombers will discourage supporters from dealing with Khaddafi in answer to the question why he thought the Soviets are supplying him with dangerous weapons such as a bomber - and they have admitted that they have already delivered six of them. Webster said that it was probably their need for cash and their long-time history of selling him war materials.

And finally what is the CIA director's relationship with President George Bush?

Style

Webster says that, "every President has his own style and his own approach to information. This President is a former director of the CIA and therefore knows how our system works. He made it clear from the start that he wants to get his intelligence unvarnished and for his national security adviser to co-ordinate the policy makers' approach to what is done with the intelligence. He symbolises this by the way he takes his morning briefing. I am there as often as I am able to. If I am not there he is briefed by our own CIA-trained briefers, whom he often asks for amplifications. He is not an inexperienced man. He has known a lot of people and he wants to stay in touch with those who can supply him with information. He feels very comfortably in the presence of his national security adviser and his deputy and his chief of staff. I am seeing the president quite frequently. Not to tell him anything but to tell him what is happening or to draw his attention to a problem area. Policies are discussed in the planning, the principles, the deputy committees and the National Security Council, which he chairs, and he does really chair it. I keep our role to one of what our analysts' intelligence means, not what we should do about it."

Middle East situation requires careful handling

When cartoons are a risky business...

By David Walsh

WASHINGTON, (KUNA): Cartooning is not usually viewed as a hazardous profession. People tend to think of it as a purely whimsical art form intended to amuse readers, or at most distract them from the bad news that fills their newspapers.

Unless, of course, the topic is the Middle East. In that case, the special and opinionated breed known as editorial cartoonists must steel themselves for some unpleasant reactions.

But perhaps that's the inevitable when they depict Israel as a huge Roman general storming through the West Bank.

Or show Israel as a bearded man, standing on top of a prostrate figure symbolising the Palestinians and holding a sign exclaiming "free Soviet Jews."

Or when Israel's defiant Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, arms crossed and eyes closed, declares:

"Israeli policy won't be influenced by a few rocks, bricks, firebombs or any other flying object" as various objects hurtle towards him. The last "flying object" is a dove of peace.

For many true believers in Israel's eternal rectitude, such powerful images are bitter medicine, are, indeed, an open invitation to counterattack.

In some parts of the world, physical attacks on the artists (to include murder) are the price sometimes paid for displeasing individuals or governments.

In the US the consequences usually are less drastic but often as dramatic.

In hopes of learning about the risky business of Middle East-related editorial cartooning, KUNA recently interviewed some of its leading American practitioners.

They are: The Christian Science Monitor's Jeff Danziger, the Los Angeles Times' Paul Conrad, the Miami News' Don Wright and the Houston Post's Jim Margulies.

Besides their "home" papers, all four men's work appears in many other national US publications, and is frequently distributed throughout the Arab world and elsewhere abroad.

All have received high professional honours for their cartooning (of which only a portion is devoted to the Middle East) including a number of "Pulitzers," American journalism's highest award.

Most agree that conscience and a sense of "justice denied" for the Palestinians dictated the content of their drawings, especially after the intifada (or uprising) was launched last December.

That, they insist, is what has made them

persevere despite the negative reactions or charges of "anti-semitism" the cartoons often inspired in the US.

Two of the four artists are American Jews. The Monitor's Danziger compared what Palestinians under occupation face daily with his experiences as a combat soldier in Vietnam.

"The only thing I learned over there was that you really cannot force people for any period of time to do what they don't want to do with guns," he says.

"They find a way around it or they find some guns themselves. (Occupation) just doesn't work."

And Danziger observed, "going up with rocks against people with guns is pretty damn gutsy."

Concerning one of his dark renderings that shows an "Israel" sign painted over with "armed camp" with an Israeli soldier looming nearby, Danziger explained he drew it because Israel had become "even more restrictive (than ever) about who they let in and who they let out."

The Jewish state, Danziger added, had gone from being "security conscious" to "impinging the freedom of movement that most nations like to have."

The Los Angeles Times' Conrad was asked about when he first thought to lambast Israel over its occupation policies. Conrad, a caustic but astute observer who has stung "targets" over a broad subject range, responds, "Oh, hell, when they started shooting the kids."

One strong image by the three-time Pulitzer prize winner shows the previously-mentioned bent, bowed Palestinian with the rabbi standing on top asking that Soviet Jews be "freed."

Another that helped make him an enemy of Israel's defenders Conrad related, is of a large Star of David formed from USI rifles.

The Miami News' Wright asserted that many of his drawings were critical due to the absence of Palestinian participation in the peace process.

He states, "Oh, yes, it most certainly should, beyond doubt, when queried about whether the US-PLO dialogue should continue. 'I think any sane and reasonable person would' hold this view."

Wright characterised Israel's policies as "obstinate and inflexible," themes that recur in his drawings and are singled out for ridicule or criticism.

Jim Margulies, the Houston Post's soft-spoken editorial cartoonist, said Israel's disorder-quelling tactics were essentially "just a gross over-reaction thing of saying, 'we're in charge so we're going to beat the hell out of you.'"

Of that cartoon, entitled "Back to Square One," Margulies explains he was lampooning Shultz' inability to get Arab and Israeli co-operation despite his numerous visits to the region.

On the very serious issue of threats and intimidation, the artists agreed these nearly always followed depictions of Israel misdeeds and of life of oppressed Palestinians under occupation.

Evidently, no subject they covered professionally - arms control, the AIDS epidemic, America's inner city problems - generated anywhere near the heat and combustions as the Middle East and Israel did, the artists concurred.

Understandably, the number of cartoonists' critical drawings - and the number of threats - have increased dramatically in the 16 months of the Arab uprising, or intifada.

Of the not-so-subtle pressure from fellow Jews to back off the Middle East, Margulies retorts: "Some people equate criticism of Israel with being anti-semitic, which I find totally off the wall."

To friends of Israel who insist that as an American Jew he has no right to attack Israel's policies, Margulies has a ready and logical answer. "As an American taxpayer I financially assist Israel... so I think I have every right to complain."

Still, the artist said he knew of several instances in which editors reacted to criticisms by "pulling" cartoonists' work. He preferred not giving details.

Conrad, whose work is seen in a Kuwaiti newspaper among over a hundred others worldwide, told KUNA he often was "taken to task... by the Jewish Defence League (JDL) and other ardent pro-Israeli groups."

Incidents

The US Justice Department has charged the JDL has committed more terrorist incidents in the US than any other organisation.

In addition to picketing the LA Times and his home, Conrad relates, the JDL "insulted me" by presenting the artist with a live pig at his front door.

Don Wright, like the others over the years, has endured the "anti-Semite" label for criticising Israel's policies. He terms that "the usual reaction you might expect," thought emphasising he did not "take sides" and merely "challenged Israel for acting badly against the Palestinians."

Zionists also had physically threatened him, Wright explained, and his main paper was hit with "small threats of boycotts by advertisers. But he has yet to be beaten and doubts the boycotts would have much effect.

هكذا انت الوطن

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Kuwait trade volume surges

Market indices turn mixed

THE Alshail Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 37.97 points with a decrease of 0.79 point — 2.04 per cent — from last week's average. The Alshail Index for Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 68.05 points with a decrease of 1.00 point — 1.45 per cent for the same period, according to Alshail Economic Consultants' weekly market report.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 41.10 million shares at a daily average of 8.22 million shares with an increase of 51 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 7.84 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 4.56 million shares at a daily average of 0.91 million shares with a decrease of 45 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.84 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD15.95 million at a daily average of KD3.189 million, an increase of 8 per cent over last week's daily average of KD2.945 million.

The value of Non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.275 million at a daily average of KD0.055 million, an increase of 8 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.051 million.

The market resumed its weak performance which was reflected on both the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti shares market, however the three indices—price, volume and value—gave mixed indications.

Nothing new happened concerning dividend distributions, around 45 per cent of listed companies have not declared their financial statements yet and it is very unlikely that they would distribute any dividend.

In spite of the unjustified increase in prices that may happen between now and then as a result of official declarations and rumours that "we do not judge appropriate, we believe that these high prices will go back to their natural levels if not worse as time passes by."

Listed companies still have the chance to undertake structural changes that would affect their performance to the better, through organisational and financial major changes.

However the chance would have been better during the first quarter of this year, when the general prices were reasonably low but these changes could be delayed due to the proposals of inappropriate solutions for the general economic problems that are currently being under discussion.

"In our opinion if the decision of implementing the investment funds and the listing of small successful firms into the market together with the fundamental changes in the structures of the companies are made at the same time, this would lead to a major solution to the performance of the Kuwait Stock Exchange market as a whole."

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector had the lead at 86 per cent of total trading against 81.5 per cent last week. The Commercial Bank led at 24 per cent followed by Burgan Bank at 23 per cent and Gulf Bank at 17 per cent.

The services sector came second at 7 per cent of which Mobile Telephone Systems at 63 per cent, followed by Kuwait Commercial Bank at 24 per cent and Public Warehousing led at 13 per cent. The food sector came third at 4 per cent, of which Kuwait Food Co. had the lead at 74 per cent, followed by Livestock Trading & Transportation at 23 per cent and United Fisheries at 3 per cent. For the Non-Kuwaiti shares market, Coast Investment & Development Co. had the lead at 37 per cent, followed by Bahrain International Bank at 30 per cent Umm Al-Qusain Cement Co. at 21 per cent.

Banking Sector			
The National Bank	108.91	108.91	—
The Gulf Bank	32.81	33.69	-0.89
The Commercial Bank	24.15	24.15	—
Al Ahli Bank	31.79	32.29	0.50
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	31.44	32.84	-1.41
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	28.71	30.00	1.29
Burgan Bank	28.24	27.75	0.50
Kuwait Finance House	77.45	75.80	1.65
Sector Index	46.34	46.68	-0.34
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	17.45	25.71	-8.26
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	11.68	13.40	-1.72
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	69.84	69.05	0.79
IFA	35.29	35.29	—
Commercial Facilities	116.88	120.00	-3.13
National Investments	67.65	66.67	0.98
Kuwait Investment Proj.	86.52	87.64	-1.12
Sector Index	33.16	36.74	-3.59
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	36.48	36.48	—
Gulf Insurance Co.	27.69	27.69	—
Al Ahleia Insurance Co.	47.74	47.74	—
Warba Insurance Co.	58.42	58.42	—
Sector Index	37.18	37.18	—
Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	16.82	16.82	—
United Realty	5.58	6.03	-0.45
National Real Estate	35.83	33.84	1.99
Sector Index	13.32	13.27	0.04
Industrial Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	11.59	11.59	—
Refrigeration Indust.	83.45	83.45	—
Gulf Cables	112.00	112.00	—
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	74.67	76.44	-1.78
Sector Index	30.42	30.51	-0.08
Services Sector			
Kuwait Computer Co.	162.00	162.00	—
Kuwait Cinema Co.	8.56	8.56	—
Public Warehousing Co.	66.67	69.70	-3.03
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	35.45	35.91	-0.46
Mobile Telephone Syst.	271.43	271.43	—
Sector Index	52.98	53.65	-0.68
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	30.51	48.41	-17.90
United Fisheries	9.63	9.21	0.42
Kuwait United Poultry	83.61	83.61	—
Kuwait Food Co.	66.67	70.11	-3.42
Sector Index	35.35	42.46	-7.11
Overall Index	37.97	38.76	-0.79

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wednesday 12/04/89	Wednesday 05/04/89	Change points
First Gulf Bank	144.74	144.74	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	86.90	86.90	—
Bahrain M. East Bank	89.22	91.12	-1.90
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	80.00	82.86	-2.86
Arabian Gen. Inv. (SHUAA)	50.00	50.00	—
Umm Al Quain Cement	17.62	18.37	-0.75
Gulf Medical Projects	20.83	20.83	—
Total Index	68.05	68.05	-1.00

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

KD deposit rates mixed

KUWAIT, April 15, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates were mixed in a quiet today market.

Dealers said overnight rates were steady from Thursday, with deals made at nine per cent. Tomorrow-next and spot-next traded at nine and 9-1/2 compared to Thursday's quotes of nine and 9-1/2 for spot-next.

One week was steady at 9-1/2. 8-1/2.

One to three months firmed 1/8 point to 9-3/8 8-7/8 from 9-1/4 8-3/4, although no deals were reported. Six months eased notionally by 1/4 point to 9-1/8 8-5/8.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar to dollar exchange rate to 0.28942/52 from 0.29025/35 on Thursday.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, April 15, (KUNA): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait, today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2891	0.2892
Sterling	0.49120	0.49610
Dm.	0.15460	0.15620
S. fr.	0.17500	0.17700
F. fr.	0.04566	0.04622
It. lira	0.002106	0.002129
Jap yen	0.002180	0.002208
BH. dinar	0.76700	0.76900
UAE dh.	0.07870	0.07895
S. riyal	0.07710	0.07730
Q. riyal	0.07940	0.07960
O. riyal	0.75100	0.75300

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, April 15, (KUNA): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-13/16	9-5/16
3 months	8-13/16	9-5/16
6 months	8-7/8	9-3/8
1 year	8-7/8	9-3/8

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Syrian oil output set to rise further

Foreign exchange revenue to get boost

DAYRAZ-ZAWR, Syria, April 15, (Reuters): Syria's oil output could rise by almost 45 per cent by July, giving a welcome boost to foreign exchange revenue, oil industry sources say.

They say output could touch 500,000 barrels per day (BPD) by August as the new Omar field and related fields allow Syria, which borders oil giants Saudi Arabia and Iraq, to raise its domestic output.

Syria, unlike Iraq and Saudi Arabia, does not belong to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Oil will help pay an estimated \$15 billion owed to the Soviet Union and other East European countries.

Consumption
Omar in east Syria is already producing 100,000 BPD after coming on stream in February, a production operator said during a rare visit by journalists to the eastern fields.

Nearby Thayyem and Ward fields produce 65,000 and 40,000 BPD respectively and older fields in the north produce 150,000 BPD, giving total output of 355,000 BPD.

Domestic consumption of oil and gas is less than half current oil production.

The industry sources said output from Omar, discovered near the Iraqi border in 1987, and the related Omar north and Tanak Tayan fields could add another 100,000-150,000 BPD to national output by August.

An oil industry official said 10 foreign oil companies including Shell, Total, Elf, British Petroleum and Occidental were searching for new fields in eastern and western areas. Initial results were encouraging.

The eastern fields are operated by Al Furat Petroleum Company (AFPC), owned by the state-owned Syrian Petroleum Company and the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of the Netherlands.

An official said 10 wells at a depth of 3,000 to 4,000 metres (10,000 to 13,000 feet) were operating at Omar. Production was set to rise at little cost and two storage tanks with a capacity of 75,000 cubic metres had been built.

The official said the oil was high-grade, with API gravity of 40 and no sulphur.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) newsletter said in February that newly discovered fields at nearby Shahel and Al Isba would come on stream next year.

Struck
It added that about seven wells drilled in the nearby Al Sham concession had all struck oil.

Oil from the eastern fields is pumped 500 km (300 miles) to Homs and Baniyas refineries on the coast through a 30-32 inch (76-81 centimetre) pipeline which used to carry Iraqi oil for export until a political rift nearly 10 years ago.

An official at Thayyem field said output there could rise by 15,000 BPD and that its oil had API gravity of 37-38. There were 13 wells at a depth of 3,000 metres (10,000 feet).

Heavy crude from the Sweidieh, Rumland and Jbishi fields in the north, which began production in 1975, is also pumped by pipeline to the coast. The fields are operated exclusively by the Syrian Petroleum Company.

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Portable stereo

Vietnamese customers inspect a portable Chinese-made stereo available since early this year in markets near the historically troubled Sino-Vietnamese border. Lang Son province is one of Vietnam's main gateways to China. (Reuters wirephoto)

Stock market sees no recession

NEW YORK, April 15, (AP): If you are willing to take the word of one veteran forecaster, you can be confident that the American economy won't slip into a recession this year.

The prophet in question is not some individual gifted with second sight. Rather, it is the collective vision of countless investors as expressed by the stock market.

In recent history, whenever a sustained business slump has occurred—in 1969-70, 1973-75, and 1981-82—stock prices fell for several months before clear signs of economic weakness appeared.

Now, despite all the talk on Wall Street about an economic slowdown in the face of rising inflation, high interest rates and a long list of other worries, stocks are holding their ground at or near their highest levels in a year and a half.

Delegates extend coffee talks to try to reach price pact
LONDON, April 15, (Reuters): Coffee producing and consuming countries agreed to extend their talks for 24 hours until midnight today to try to reach a price support agreement, delegates said on Friday.

The two sides were divided on whether to continue international control of the market. The present 74-country agreement expires in September. Delegates said there appeared to be little likelihood that a further day of talks would break the deadlock.

Colombia was working on a compromise acceptable both to Brazil, the biggest producer, and the United States, the biggest consumer, and had pressed for the extension.

Colombian delegate Nestor Osorio said: "We have made enough progress to think we have the basis to merge elements discussed. We can make an effort to find a framework to work from now to September."

The United States said on Thursday it could consider a possible one-year extension to the existing agreement, as proposed by Colombia, but only on certain conditions.

But the US conditions were unacceptable to Brazil and many other producers.

Brazil has already rejected a so-called universal quota concept, proposed by consumers as a way to stop producers selling coffee at discounts to countries outside the agreement.

The United States has agreed to talk for another day but has threatened not to stay longer, delegates said.

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Consider the assignment facing the Federal Reserve: clamp down on inflation, but keep the economy moving ahead at a sustained pace, all the while keeping the dollar stable in foreign exchange.

Nevertheless, stocks managed to post their third consecutive weekly gain in the past week. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 32.26 to 2,337.06.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index gained 1.96 to 168.89; the NASDAQ composite index for the over-the-counter market added 6.97 to 417.68, and the American Stock Exchange market value index was up 5.23 to 335.82.

Nevertheless, analysts say, it would be very unusual for a real recession to catch stock investors completely by surprise.

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Jordan, IMF reach pact on economic reforms

AMMAN, April 15. (Reuters): Jordan, burdened by \$6 billion of foreign debt, announced yesterday it had agreed on economic reforms with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The official news agency Petra said the cabinet had endorsed the five-year package in a special meeting last night. It quoted Finance Minister Hanna Odeh as telling the cabinet the plan aimed to reduce the budget and balance of payments deficits and to achieve a real growth rate in gross domestic product (GDP) of four per cent by the end of the transition period, while keeping inflation under control.

Spending

Odeh said public spending cuts would not affect food subsidies, expected to cost around \$120 million this year, or the current exchange rate of the dinar.

He said the IMF saw the rate fixed by the

Central Bank in February at 540 fils to the dollar as realistic and appropriate.

The minister said the programme also called for rescheduling of Jordan's foreign debt, officially put at \$6 billion.

"This programme complements measures taken by the government last year and will allow Jordan to get extra financial resources from the IMF and the World Bank of up to \$275 million in the next 18 months," Odeh said.

Additional bilateral help would come from what he described as friendly countries. Jordan has in the past depended heavily on foreign aid, particularly from Saudi Arabia.

A Jordanian official told Reuters the IMF was expected to grant an 18-month standby credit of \$125 million, of which 80 million would be drawn down this year, while the World Bank might provide a loan of up to \$150 million.

Odeh said the programme, to take effect immediately, included steps to boost domestic revenue, exports, investment and savings. Imports and consumption would be curbed.

He did not disclose details of planned cuts in the calendar 1989 budget of about \$1.9 billion.

"We have concluded the talks and reached an understanding on a letter of intent," Mohammed Yaacoub, deputy director of the fund's Middle East department told Reuters earlier.

Talks

He said he would take the proposals back to IMF headquarters in Washington in a few days. The IMF's management would discuss them before sending back a letter of confirmation, he added.

Yaacoub said he was happy with the deal but would not say how long the IMF

might take to give formal approval and make credit available. That depends on so many things," he said.

A source close to the talks said the two sides had agreed on ways to reduce Jordan's budget deficit by 18 million dinars (\$33 million) and boost government revenue by 39 million dinars (\$72 million) a year from 1989 onwards.

The sources said the government would set a 1989 public borrowing ceiling of 215 million dinars (\$398 million), including 140 million dinars (\$269 million) in domestic loans and 75 million dinars (139 million) in soft loans from abroad.

In subsequent years, the overall ceiling would not exceed 240 million dinars (\$444 million), he said.

A banking source said the IMF wanted Amman to bring the budget deficit down within five years to two or three per cent of GDP from the present 22 per cent.

About 3,000 women meet

Conference against gas disaster settlement

BHOPAL, India, April 15. (AP): About 3,000 women gathered here today to discuss economic and medical rehabilitation of survivors of the 1984 gas disaster.

The two-day convention was organised by the Bhopal Women Gas Victim Organisation, which says the \$470 million settlement decreed by India's Supreme Court is too little.

The government says more than 3,400 people died and at least 20,000 were injured when methyl isocyanate gas escaped from a tank at the Bhopal pesticide plant operated by an Indian subsidiary of Union Carbide Corp., a US-based multinational.

"We realise that the voice of the gas victims is not being heard in the country and abroad because of pressures from the government and Union Carbide. This convention is the first step to start a mass movement in the country to fight for the rights of the gas victims," said Abdul Jabbar Khan, an activist who heads the women's group.

He predicted the convention would pass resolutions demanding a re-opening of the government's \$3 billion suit against Union Carbide, whose headquarters are in Danbury, Connecticut.

On Feb 14, the Indian Supreme Court ordered Union Carbide to pay \$470 million in full and final settlement of all claims arising from the 1984 disaster.

At the convention's opening session Dr Sathiyamala of the Medico Friends Circle disputed the government's casualty toll for the disaster. She said statistics collected from burial and cremation grounds indicated at least 20,000 people died from exposure to the gas that seeped out of the pesticide plant on Dec 3, 1984.

Energy use on the rise

BERN, April 15. (KUNA): Energy consumption in Switzerland increased by just 0.3 per cent last year, despite a 3.0 per cent rise in the gross domestic product, the Federal Statistical Office reported today.

This limited increase in consumption was a consequence of energy-saving measures and unusually mild weather, it said.

The consumption of all oil and petroleum products was also 0.3 per cent higher, at 12.03 million tonnes, although demand for domestic heating oil was down 4.6 per cent and that for heavy industrial oil was up by 9.0 per cent, because of lower prices.

Petrol consumption rose 4.0 per cent, with the proportion of lead-free fuel being sold rising to 36.5 per cent of the total, up from 27 per cent in 1987.

Morocco is luring foreign investors

CASABLANCA, April 15. (Reuters): Morocco, emerging from an austerity programme and a succession of poor harvests, is luring foreign investors with new economic liberalisation policies as part of its drive to boost exports.

Import duties have been cut on raw materials and foreign exchange procedures and bank guarantees have been streamlined.

Foreign manufacturers, cashing in on the new mood, are starting to use the Arab country as a base for exporting to the Middle East, Africa and even to Europe.

"This is the fastest-growing side of our business," said Marshall Bryan, director of the Goodyear Company in Casablanca which exported tyres worth \$7.48 million last year.

"It has become a great deal easier to operate here."

Its long-running conflict in the Western Sahara winding down under a UN peace plan, Morocco has also moved to open new markets by restoring ties severed in the 1970s with African states which supported the

Bid to boost exports

Sahara's secessionist guerrillas. Morocco's diplomatic drive in Africa has begun to pay.

General Type of the US which exported 20 per cent of its Moroccan output last year, sold tyres in the Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone in addition to Italy and France.

Manager Abdelhakim Benouna said the firm hopes to sell in Iraq and Algeria for the first time in 1989.

The recent surge in Western interest in Morocco as a base for exports coincided with a slash of 20 per cent in the 1988 trade deficit over the previous year, a dramatic improvement that officials attributed to an overall 25.6 per cent increase in exports last year.

The best harvest on record and a major leap in the export of phosphates and phosphoric acid contributed to the increased volume of exports, according to provisional government figures.

The good economic news, however, arrived at a time when the government faces demands by workers for wage hikes after

the end of a five-year austerity programme backed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The World Bank places Morocco eighth on its list of the most heavily indebted Third World countries with a \$22-billion foreign debt. Though the figure is lower than that of many other Third World countries, Morocco's debt is higher when expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP).

Unemployment also remains high. Official figures put it at around 16 per cent, but opposition politicians say it is as high as 40 per cent in some rural areas.

Morocco, however, may draw on newly-found interest in it among British businessmen to expand its industrial sector, whose exports — \$800 million last year — accounted for a third of total exports.

Attracted by the incentives offered by the private enterprise-oriented government and Morocco's proximity to West European markets, four British garment factories are now operating in Morocco.

US trade deficit widens to \$10.5b

WASHINGTON, April 15. (AP): The US merchandise trade deficit widened by 20.9 per cent to \$10.5 billion in February as Americans increased their appetite for foreign goods, the government said yesterday.

The Commerce Department said the sharp deterioration in the trade picture reflected a 5.3 per cent increase in imports, which swamped a slight 0.6 per cent rise in export sales. The report was in line with economists' expectations.

The February deficit, combined with a revised shortfall of \$8.68 billion for January, would translate into an annual

Imports jump

imbalance of \$115 billion compared with a deficit for all of 1988 of \$119.76 billion.

Last year's figure represented a 21.3 per cent improvement over 1987's record high of \$152.1 billion, but analysts generally expect the positive trend to fizzle this year.

Rising prices for imported oil and a strengthening of the value of the dollar, which make US goods more expensive overseas, are contributing to the stall.

The sharp narrowing of the trade deficit last year was credited with providing almost half of US economic growth. With trade providing less

momentum, overall growth, as measured by the gross national product, is expected to slacken as well.

That would be bad news for President George Bush's administration, which is counting on strong economic growth to keep tax revenues high and hold down the federal budget deficit.

Administration officials have vowed to whittle the deficit by opening more foreign markets to US goods.

As usual, the United States posted its largest trade deficit with Japan in February, \$4.65 billion, up from a three-year low of \$3.53 billion a month earlier.

US wholesale prices up

WASHINGTON, April 15. (AP): Wholesale prices, despite an increase in home heating oil costs, rose a moderate 0.4 per cent in March as inflation eased somewhat after steep rises of 1 per cent in each of the previous two months, the government said Friday.

The boost in the US Labour Department's producer price index reflected higher costs for both food and energy, although the increases in both categories were smaller than those registered in the first two months of the year.

The overall gain was generally in line with or a little under analysts' expectations and was likely to help calm Wall Street's

inflation fears. While March's increase was much more restrained than the strong jumps of the previous two months, wholesale prices one stop short of retail have risen at a compound annual rate of 10.2 per cent over the past three months.

That is the largest quarterly increase since prices rose at a compound annual rate of 13.2 per cent during the first three months of 1981.

Should the first quarter's rate be sustained for the rest of the year, it would far exceed the increase registered for 1988, when wholesale prices rose 4 per

cent in what was the steepest gain in seven years. Prices had risen 2.2 per cent in 1987.

Financial markets had been fearful that further bad news on the inflation front would prompt the Federal Reserve Board — the US central bank — to step up its campaign to slow economic growth and restrain inflationary pressures by pushing up interest rates.

Wholesale food prices rose 0.8 per cent last month after jumping 1.2 per cent during February. Last month's increase in food costs was led by a 38.8 per cent gain in prices for eggs while vegetable costs dropped 11.6 per cent after surging 35.3 per cent during February.

Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand to sell tin

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, April 15. (AP): Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Brazil will sell tin from their stocks to ease a shortage of the material which has caused upward spiralling prices, the Star daily reported today.

The newspaper quoted industry sources saying Malaysia will cut its stocks of tin by 2,000 tons under an agreement by the Association of Tin Producing Countries reached this week.

Indonesia, another major tin producer within the ATPC, will sell about 2,500 tons and fellow member Thailand 560 tons, the report said.

Brazil, a non-ATPC member, has announced it will sell 2,750 tons by the end of the year, it said.

The ATPC decision to release stocks has not yet cooled the market, the sources were quoted as saying, adding that the market would be watching closely for any actual sales of the released stocks.

The price of the metal jumped 28 sen (10.2 US cents) yesterday to 28.95 ringgits (\$10.56) per kilogramme (2.2 pounds) on the Kuala Lumpur tin market.

An industry source noted that the "most definitely available stocks" of tin were the 170,000 tons United States General Services Administration (GSA) stockpile. The United States Congress approves about 10,000 to 15,000 tons for disposal every year but not all this amount is sold.

The Kuala Lumpur Commodity Exchange (KLCE) meanwhile is advising tin miners to look to the exchange for hedging opportunities. KLCE chief executive Syed Jabbar Shahabuddin said yesterday by selling forward, miners would be able to protect their profit margins if prices do drop in the future.

UK equity markets drop sharply

US stocks race to their biggest gain of the year

DESPITE the batch of economic data, over the week as a whole, the dollar markets have remained virtually unchanged. The trade number at deficit \$10.3 billion was very much in line with market expectations.

Although it provided evidence of some closing in the gap on last year, export growth was notably slower whilst imports showed a sharp rise. These underlying trends do not therefore augur well for a more substantive improvement to the US trade position, according to NBB weekly market review.

The markets breathed a sigh of relief at the PPI number which was more in line following two successive months of one per cent rises. As a result US bond and treasury prices benefited marginally whilst the Dow Jones industrial index was unchanged on the week. The dollar ended the week also unchanged at DM1.87 and Y132.4.

Housing completions increased 2.9 per cent in February following a revised 0.1 per cent increase in January. Retail sales rose 0.1 per cent in March following a decline of 0.6 per cent in February. The year on year rate of rise is 4.2 per cent.

Producer price index increased 0.4 per cent in March following two successive months of one per cent rises, bringing the year on year rise to 5.6 per cent.

Merchandise trade deficit for February was \$10.5 billion compared with a downward revision for January to a deficit of \$8.68 billion. The February number compares with February a year ago of deficit \$13.2 billion.

Merchandise exports for February were \$28.9 billion com-

pared with January's figure of \$28.75 billion and February 1988 of \$24.5 billion.

Merchandise imports were up to \$39.4 billion compared with January's \$37.4 billion and compares with February 1988 of \$37.7 billion.

Industrial production was unchanged in March following an unchanged figure in February bringing the yearly rise to 4.6 per cent. Manufacturing production decreased however by 0.1 per cent in March following 0.1 per cent rise in February. The year on year rise for March was 5.3 per cent.

Business inventories increased 0.5 per cent in February after a revised 0.8 per cent in January.

US stocks raced to their biggest gain of the year on Friday and bond prices jumped as investors celebrate a report showing that wholesale prices moderated last month.

Overall the indicators of the last week have provided some indication that the economy is possibly slowing. However although the PPI number was lower than feared inflationary concerns are far from over. Therefore whilst the requirement for the Federal Reserve to tighten further has receded, equally it is highly unlikely until there is greater evidence of slowdown that the Fed will ease policy.

"We continue to argue that policymakers in the US will maintain their current 'wait and see' attitude. Consequently we continue to expect for the near term that money market rates will oscillate within a narrow margin."

Equally equity markets and foreign exchange will follow in

tandem. However, the dollar remains vulnerable to its external deficit which shows few signs of significant improvement. Also the interest rate trap that the dollar has enjoyed will begin to weaken as more conclusive evidence of economic slowdown becomes apparent.

Trading ranges for the coming week are: Y129-134 and DM1.84-1.89.

The batch of data releases this week failed to provide conclusive evidence for UK economic trends. The RPI (retail price index) rose less than expected remaining at a year on year rate of less than eight per cent.

However, with wage settlements still rising above the rate of inflation falling unemployment continues to emphasise labour constraints and the possibility of a wage-price spiral. Equity markets fell sharply earlier in the week on the back of expectations that interest rates would be raised, but recouped virtually all losses by the end of the week after the release of the RPI number, suggesting that interest rate policy for the time being would remain unchanged.

Output prices for manufactured goods rose in March by a non-seasonally adjusted 0.3 per cent to a yearly increase of 5.2 per cent. This rate of rise was unchanged on the previous month.

Input prices for manufacturing increased by 1.4 per cent in March after a revised 0.1 per cent fall in February. This brought the yearly increase to 6.7 per cent compared with 5.5 per cent the month before.

Abe admits he received Recruit payments

TOKYO, April 15. (Reuters): In a further disclosure in Japan's widening political scandal, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe admitted today that he had been receiving donations from the Recruit Company.

Abe, powerful secretary general of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was commenting on local media reports that he and those close to him apparently had received up to nearly 100 million yen (\$57,000) from Recruit over the past 10 years or so.

Kyodo News Service said that according to sources concerned the money was apparently in the form of political contributions or payments for tickets for Abe's fund-raising parties.

Kyodo quoted Abe as telling reporters: "I have said I had obtained co-operation (from former Recruit chairman Hiromasa Ezoe). Since we have known each other for a long time, there have been contributions and party tickets."

He refused to divulge how much the total amounted to or give further details but said the payments were legal.

The latest revelation was regarded as a further setback for the government of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Abe, 64, who was a leading

contender to succeed Takeshita, analysts said.

On Friday, Abe admitted that his wife had been receiving monthly donations from the company for three years.

His admission followed a report in the daily newspaper Mainichi Shimbun that she had received about 9.3 million yen (\$70,000) between 1985 and 1988.

Last July Abe admitted his secretaries bought pre-floated shares of a Recruit subsidiary and made huge profits when the stocks were listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

In Parliament on Tuesday, Takeshita admitted that his political support groups had received more than 95 million yen (\$720,000) in donations from the Recruit Group between 1985 and 1987. He said all the payments were legal and above-board.

The scandal, involving payments of about 500 million yen (\$3.8 million) to politicians and officials by the Recruit publishing and telecommunications group, has sent the popularity rating of Takeshita's government plummeting.

Three cabinet ministers have resigned and 13 people have so far been arrested in connection with the case.

KUWAIT									
BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE	N.A.M.T. CO.	0.000	
-NATIONAL BANK	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.950	171616	14	-GULF CABLE	0.990	
-GULF BANK	0.375	0.370	0.375	0.370	480000	15	-K.P.H. INTL. CO.	0.168	
-COMMERCIAL BK	0.280	0.275	0.275	0.275	500000	30	-CONT. MARINE	0.280	
-AMLI BANK	0.315	0.315	0.315	0.310	90000		-K.S.H. REP. CO.	0.045	
-B.K.M.E.	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.335	270000	6	SERVICES SECTOR		
-K.R.E.B.	0.335						-OVERLAND TRANS	0.082	
-BURGAN BANK	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.285	630000	13	-K.N.C. CO.	0.180	
-K.F. HOUSE	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	850000	22	-KWT HOTELS CO.	0.000	
INVESTMENT SECTOR							-P.WAREHOUSING	0.134	0.132
-KWT INV. CO.	0.095						-CON.MKT. CNPX.	0.077	
-K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210						-MOBILE TELE.	0.285	
-K.I.T.C.	0.068						-KWT COMPUTER	0.150	
-CON. FACILITIES	0.425						FOOD SECTOR		
-AMLIAN INV.	0.000						-LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.150	
-I.F.A.	0.048						-UNITD FISHERIES	0.136	
-INV. PEARL KWT	0.088						-UNITD POULTRY	0.000	
-NATIONAL INV.	0.071	0.069	0.069	0.069	40000	1	-KWT FOODS	0.290	
-KWT PROJECTS.	0.077						-AGRI. FOOD PRD.	0.150	
INSURANCE SECTOR							NON-KWT SECTOR		
-KWT INSURANCE	0.610						-BHN. INTER. BK	0.063	0.063
-GULF INSURANCE	0.000						-BHN. N.EAST. BK	0.048	0.047
-AMLIAN INS. CO.	0.000						-COAST. INVEST.	0.085	0.084
-WARBA INS. CO.	0.340						-A.G. INV. GRP.	0.053	0.053
REAL EST SECTOR							-FIRST. GULF BK	0.550	0.033
-KWT R.E. CO.	0.132						-BHN. KUL. GRP.	0.078	
-UNI R.E. CO.	0.050						-GULF MEDICAL	0.033	
-NAT. R.E. CO.	0.180						KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE		
-SALAHIAN R.E.	0.080						COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET		
-KWT R.E.I. CO.	0.000						FINANCIAL SECTOR	P.CLS	LT
INDUSTRY SECTOR							-GULF INTL. INS.	0.000	
-NAT. IND. CO.	0.000						-ARAB INT. CO.	0.000	
-KWT M.P. IND.	0.300						-SHARJAH INS.	0.000	
-KWT CEMENT CO.	0.170						-GULF UNION INS.	0.000	
-REF. IND. CO.	0.000						-R.K. WHITE CMT	0.000	
							-AJMAN CEMENT.	0.000	
							INDUSTRIAL SECTOR		
							-B-FUJAIRAH CEMENT	0.000	
							-C-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010	
							-D-GULF CEMENT.	0.000	

Lack of options against The Satanic Verses

UK Muslims feel isolated, under siege

By Julian Baum

BIRMINGHAM and Bradford, England — Outrage among British Muslims about Salman Rushdie's controversial book has so far been contained within the law.

In recent weeks, Muslims have demonstrated in the streets and publicly burned his book. The Satanic Verses. But community leaders affirm their commitment to peaceful protests.

Yet the situation remains volatile. Impatient with secular news media which portray them as prone to violence and condoning death threats, British Muslims feel isolated and under siege.

Muslims say that the government is ignoring their concerns, and that pleas from officials that Muslims not take the law into their own hands are no substitute for action that shows that the beliefs of Britain's Muslim minority are respected.

Comments from Muslims in the cities of Birmingham and Bradford, where there are large minority communities, show that they are frustrated with their lack of legal options. "It's a very disgusting book," says 18-year-old Saeed Ahmed, a second-generation Muslim born in Birmingham. "You can't explain in words how angry people are about this book."

"A Muslim can tolerate insults to himself, even to his wife and family," says Faiz Mohammed, a Muslim leader in Bradford, where a well-organized community has set the pace for Muslim activism in the rest of Britain. "But when it comes to our religion — the Quran, Allah and the Prophet Mohammed — if someone insults these, a Muslim cannot tolerate that."

"Under Islamic law, the punishment for Rushdie's offense is death," Mohammed continues. "We have nothing to do with Ayatollah Khomeini (who twice pronounced a death sentence on Rushdie and his publishers), but no Muslim can ignore the (Islamic) law and the Holy Quran."

"What has become clear is that there is a community of 2 million Muslims in the United Kingdom who have been offended for financial gain, and they have no legal protection against this abuse," says Liaquat Hussain, secretary-general of the Council of Mosques in Bradford.

Muslims throughout Britain began protesting the Rushdie book within weeks of its publication last October. But their concerns were ignored until the book-burning incident in Bradford in mid-January and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death decrees a month later.

Community relations workers say the Muslim community in Britain is more isolated than most other minority groups, and that Muslims often do not understand how their words and actions are interpreted by the secular world in which they live.

"Muslims living in the West feel very much



British Muslim protesters demonstrate against The Satanic Verses, but community leaders affirm their commitment to peaceful protests (Reuter wirephoto).

on the defensive against a pervasive and all-encompassing secular culture," says Phillip Lewis, a lay chaplain for race relations with the Church of England. "What's going to happen when they realize Rushdie's book won't be banned?"

British Muslims insist that their demand that Rushdie's book be banned is not in conflict with the principle of freedom of expression as practiced in Western societies. They argue that freedom of expression is constrained in Britain by its laws against libel and slander and a law against blasphemy of Christian beliefs.

"What is Western freedom of expression?" asks M.A. Moughal, a magistrate in Birmingham's civil court. "Is it that one person may express his opinion against a billion Muslims in the world and that his right is protected and not ours?"

Many Westerners would answer that that is precisely what freedom of expression means. But for Muslims the issue is not an abstract one, since their religion strongly forbids blasphemy. Moreover, Islam requires Muslims to defend their faith.

Muslims say this willingness to defend the faith is a strength of Islam, a strength which shows that after 1,400 years their faith has not been weakened as has Christianity. They insist that certain religious principles should have at least equal standing with the rules of secular society.

"Many writers often condescendingly imply that Muslims should become as

tolerant as modern Christians. After all, the Christian faith has not been undermined," wrote Shabbir Akhtar in the Guardian newspaper. "But the truth is, of course, too obviously the other way. The continual blasphemies against the Christian faith have totally undermined it. Any faith which compromises its internal temper of militant wrath is destined for the dustbin of history, for it can no longer preserve its faithful heritage in the face of the corrosive influences."

Even supposing that Rushdie's novel were a literary achievement, something which Muslims usually will not accept, "defending its publication at all costs is as unjustified as threats," Dr. Shabbir wrote.

Many Muslims include in their protests a judgement on Rushdie's motive based in part on his use of obscenities and offensive imagery to mock the Prophet Mohammed and the origins of the Holy Quran.

"Here someone has deliberately tried to (direct) insults and hatred towards the Muslim community," Moughal, the magistrate, says. "When a book crosses these boundaries, it doesn't deserve to be published."

Britain's blasphemy law offers Muslims one of their few hopes for the kind of protection their religion enjoys in Islamic societies. They would like to see the law strengthened. "The blasphemy law in this country protects only Christianity," says Mohammed. "We are aiming to achieve the same protection for Islam and other religions."

1989, The Christian Science Monitor.

Family planning gaining ground in populous Egypt

By George D. Moffett III

CAIRO: Until three years ago Azyza was one of the majority of Egyptian women who, according to a recent poll, wanted to stop having children.

But just how to use the birth-control devices passed out at a local government clinic was a mystery. Family and friends warned her of grave side effects if she tried. Meanwhile the children — five, born into the squalor of her teeming Cairo neighbourhood — kept coming.

At a small non-government clinic near her home, Azyza finally found what she needed: a sympathetic doctor who took the time to provide advice that cut through the layers of fear and ignorance about family planning that are prevalent in Egypt.

Three years later, Azyza's children still number five. Experts agree that such individual counselling, now being duplicated at a number of government clinics funded with United States aid, may be one of the most effective ways to expand contraceptive use and bring birth rates down.

That government officials also seem to be getting the point is the latest sign that Egypt is trying to come to terms with runaway population growth that has imposed a heavy burden of poverty, unemployment, and political discontent.

President Hosni Mubarak has become an energetic cheerleader for family planning. Prime-time government produced TV spots and soap operas extol the practice of birth control. Even the country's ranking Islamic cleric last year affirmed that family planning is not a violation of Quranic teachings.

Population experts caution that it will take far more than good intentions for Egypt to reach its ambitious goal of reducing population growth rate from 2.7 to 2.1 per cent by the turn of the century. Still, they say, such changing attitudes represent a small step in the right direction.

"There are a lot of positive signs at the individual level; people are now finally convinced that there is a population

problem," says Hussein Abdel-Aziz Sayed, a professor of statistics and expert on population at Cairo University. "Whether this is enough or not, this is a difficult question."

"There's a healthy trend right now, but it will take years before the results will be visible," adds Dr. Mawaheb El Mouelhy, whose clinic helped teach Azyza the essentials of family planning.

Population experts are buoyed by just-released government findings that the number of women using birth control devices last year rose to 38 per cent, a 4 percentage-point increase over 1984. Meanwhile, the average size of Egyptian families has continued a steady drop from seven children 20 years ago to about 4.5 today.

But optimism is tempered by the fact that the reduction in births is not keeping pace with the decline in mortality rates. The result: Egypt's population continues to grow by a staggering 1 million people every eight months.

Egypt now has 53 million people, most of them squeezed into the 4 per cent of non-desert land irrigated by the Nile river — an area of 15,466 square miles, twice the size of New Hampshire. At current rates Egypt will bulge with 75 million people by the year 2000 and pass the 100-million mark before 2010.

The population crunch has imposed a heavy toll on traffic (hopelessly snarled), air quality (up to four times worse than levels deemed safe in the US), and housing (in chronically short supply).

Even with the world's largest primary-school construction programme, now averaging two per day, Egypt is unable to keep pace with the relentless demands of its growing population, 40 per cent of which is under the age of 15.

Beyond sheer physical hardship are the political consequences of overpopulation. Experts agree that the growing appeal of Muslim fundamentalism is closely linked to the social and economic distress produced by overcrowding.



Egypt's population continues to grow by a staggering one million people every eight months (Reuter wirephoto).

"It's hard to overestimate how serious the problem is," says a US population expert. "It's a constraint on virtually every aspect of Egypt's social and economic development."

The gravity of the problem is one reason for a slow evolution in government policy. Egypt's first President, Gamal Abdel Nasser, insisted that problems of population growth could be solved by development. And today, Egyptian leaders recognise that limiting family size is essential.

But such progressive attitudes have been offset by the dead weight of facts on the ground. Despite the government's rhetorical commitment to family planning, population issues have usually taken a back seat to more pressing short-term concerns.

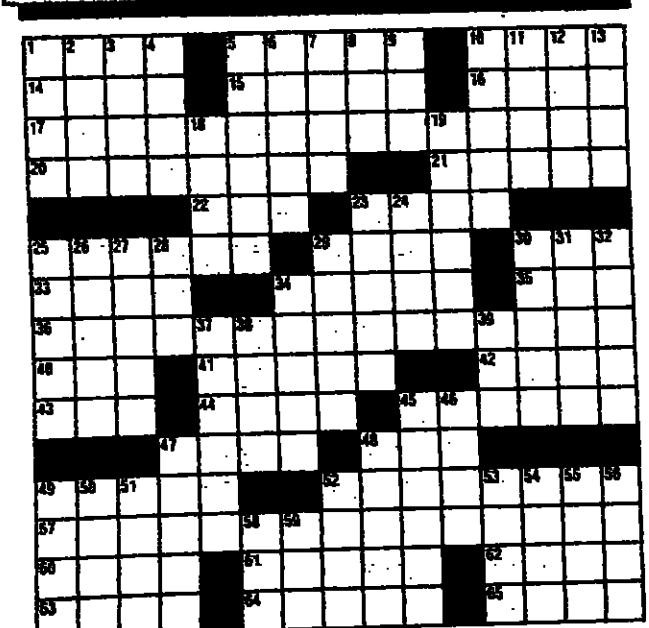
The 15-to-20 years required to

see the results of policy changes are beyond the horizon of any politician, notes one Egyptian expert. The failure of top Egyptian officials to give a consistently high priority to family planning is one reason a government population commission set up four years ago is widely judged ineffectual.

Despite more liberal attitudes toward family planning at the top of the Muslim hierarchy, moreover, many influential local imams, or preachers, still teach that curbing family size contravenes the will of God.

More basic is the perceived threat to the sanctity of the family aroused by efforts, largely funded by outsiders like the US and UN, to limit family size. 1989, The Christian Science Monitor

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Restaurant product
 - 5 Songwriter's org.
 - 10 March symbol
 - 14 Botherome
 - 15 Monumental stone
 - 16 Inter
 - 17 Strawinsky ballet
 - 20 Gazpacho ingredients
 - 21 Kins
 - 22 Sea bird
 - 23 "Aeneid" opener
 - 25 Shines
 - 29 The low-fat spread
 - 30 Dadaist Hans
 - 33 Justice Warren
 - 34 — Boru
 - 35 Notices
 - 38 Droopy-eared dog
 - 40 Heberdashery item
 - 41 Expect
 - 42 Bridge position
 - 43 Pass receiver
 - 44 Some bills
 - 45 Rock group, for short
 - 47 Fasteners
 - 48 Like Princess D
 - 49 Houston athlete
 - 52 Port on the Whangpoo
 - 57 Subject of a Wedekind play
 - 60 Ode or elegy
 - 61 Century plant
 - 62 Low voice
 - 63 Flight segment
 - 64 Ubiquitous bags
 - 65 Raven roof
- DOWN**
- 1 Actor Dion
 - 2 Role in

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

MAD SLOIT DISCO
SOLE ROCA AMOUR
SOFTTOUCH SPURS
TRIES DUOS ARLO
SEESAW REWARD
TREE ESTOPS
ASHE AZORES ULT
CHAD KRAUT ABEE
HUR SNARES CHAP
ENDURE SUET
CRISIS EVICTS
FROG SNOW ENLAI
LOVER STRONGARM
INERT ETAL URNS
PARSIE TOPE PAIS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TALK ISN'T CHEAP

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 6 5 4
♥ A Q
♦ Void
♣ A K Q 4 3 2

WEST
♠ Void
♥ J 10 8 7 4 3
♦ K Q 9 6 2
♣ 9 5

EAST
♠ K 10 9 7
♥ 9 2
♦ J 10 7
♣ J 10 7 6

SOUTH
♠ Q 8 3 2
♥ K 6 5
♦ A 8 5 4 3
♣ 8

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass Pass 2 ♠ 3
Pass 4 ♠ Pass 5 NT
Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Dbl Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Silence can be golden at the bridge table. A careless word here and there can help declarer draw an inference that might enable him to make his contract.

North's decision to cue-bid hearts is the correct way to show a powerful two-suiter. When South confirmed fair values by jumping in spades (he was well prepared to correct to diamonds had North held a minor two-suiter), North used the

Grand Slam Force to find out whether his partner held the missing two of the top honors. East's decision to double was sheer cupid-ity. Since North had expressed interest in a grand slam, it was improbable that the contract would go down more than one trick.

West's king of diamonds was won in the closed hand, as a club was discarded from dummy. Since East could only be doubling on trumps, declarer crossed to the table with the ace of hearts and led a low spade. East could not afford to rise with the king, so the queen won.

Declarer took dummy's three top clubs, then ruffed a club in hand. A diamond ruff was followed by the queen of hearts, overtaken with the king as an entry for another diamond ruff. East was now down to nothing but three trumps, while dummy held the ace-jack of trumps and a club. Declarer led the club. East was forced to ruff and lead away from his king of trumps into dummy's ace-jack tenace. Making six-odd.

Had East not doubled, it's unlikely that declarer would have unearthed the trump reduction play that allowed him to get home. East would almost surely have scored two trump tricks for a one-trick set.



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Avoid acting on impulse, and refrain from jumping to conclusions. Do not say anything you do not really mean. Try to see the funny side of things too. Be frank.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Do not allow some relatively small setback to put you off your stride. Avoid having a big meal too late at night. Refrain from losing your temper even if provoked. Be merciful.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)

You will get on much better with your partner, but you must continue playing your part. Avoid allowing resentment or prejudice to distort your judgement. Do not pretend to knowledge you have not got. Be grateful.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

Do not make a promise which you are not able or willing to keep. Make sure you do not let down a friend or colleague. You should try to use a little more commonsense and to restrain your impulses. Be resourceful.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Make sure you are not making a nuisance of yourself and do not allow others to annoy you. Do not expect to get without giving in return. Stick to a healthy diet. Be less demanding.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

Something you had hoped would happen will not but nor will something you feared might. Make sure you read a letter through before you post it — you may have second thoughts. Take the best possible care of your health. Be moderate.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)

Do not give away a secret, but nor should you be too secretive. Do not treat a hobby as though your life depended on it. You should do your best to avoid getting into a muddle. Be magnanimous.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)

You should not try to evade the consequences of your actions and you must take full responsibility for them. However do not allow others to blame you for something that is not your fault.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should try to keep away from gloomy thoughts and to look on the bright side. Do not spend money in the expectation of some good luck. Avoid getting into an argument. Be contented.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You will have plenty of energy but you must make sure you do not let your mind wander. Take just a little more regular exercise. Avoid spending too long chatting on the phone. Be hopeful.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You would be wrong to rely too much on machinery or gadgetry: brains still count. You will be better able to keep your emotions under control. You will be able to overcome a tendency towards indecisiveness. Be less quarrelsome.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You should not take too much for granted, nor should you allow your ideas to grow stale. Your lucky numbers are 22 and 16. You will be proved right, but not so much of 'I told you so.' Do not exceed the limits of propriety.



Ferdinand Marcos

Marcos can return without passport

FORMER President Ferdinand Marcos can return to the Philippines without a passport, according to an official of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Requesting anonymity because of DFA regulations, the official said: "All these talk about Marcos being unable to return because of lack of adequate travel documents is pure fiction."

The same is true with Imelda Marcos, the Marcos children, and the cronies of the deposed president who reportedly can not return because their passports have expired or some such excuse, according to the DFA official.

"For Filipino citizens who are proceeding directly to the Philippines, passports are not absolutely necessary," he said. "These travellers are nevertheless expected to present documents of evidence that they are Filipino citizens at the Philippine port of entry," he quoted the Foreign Service Code.

The DFA official said birth or baptismal certificates where Philippine citizenship is indicated, or even expired passports, are usually considered by the immigration authorities sufficient documentary evidence.

The DFA official pointed out that Section 136, Paragraph 3 of the Foreign Service Code has resolved the matter since 1975.

Adoption causes uproar in Italy

Tug of love over baby Filipina

By William Scobie

A MULTI-MILLION pound international trade in new-born babies sold to childless European couples for anything from £1,000 to £40,000 has been unveiled in an uproar over a three-year-old Filipino girl.

Pump, pretty almond-eyed Serena, 'adopted' in Manila by an Italian family and then removed from it in a legal tussle with Italian authorities, is the centre of a nationwide dispute.

Amid bomb scares, hunger strikes, marches on Rome, and attempts to 'rescue' the infant by kidnap, Italy's Ministry of Justice last week remained adamant about her removal. It asserts that money changed hands when Serena was taken from Manila and that she was brought into the country illegally.

Despite parliamentary debates, petitions to the Pope, Italy's president, and the European Court in Strasbourg, she was transferred under police guard to a Catholic orphanage at an undisclosed location.

The battle has become the symbol of a politico-religious conflict. On one side are desperate would-be baby buyers, many of whom have already spent life-savings on medical advice and fertility aids, and on the other authorities determined to stamp out what they call a squalid black market violating children's rights.

Each year at least 4,000 children, usually Asian, abandoned by their parents and living on the streets or held in homes, are purchased abroad by childless European couples, the Italian authorities believe.

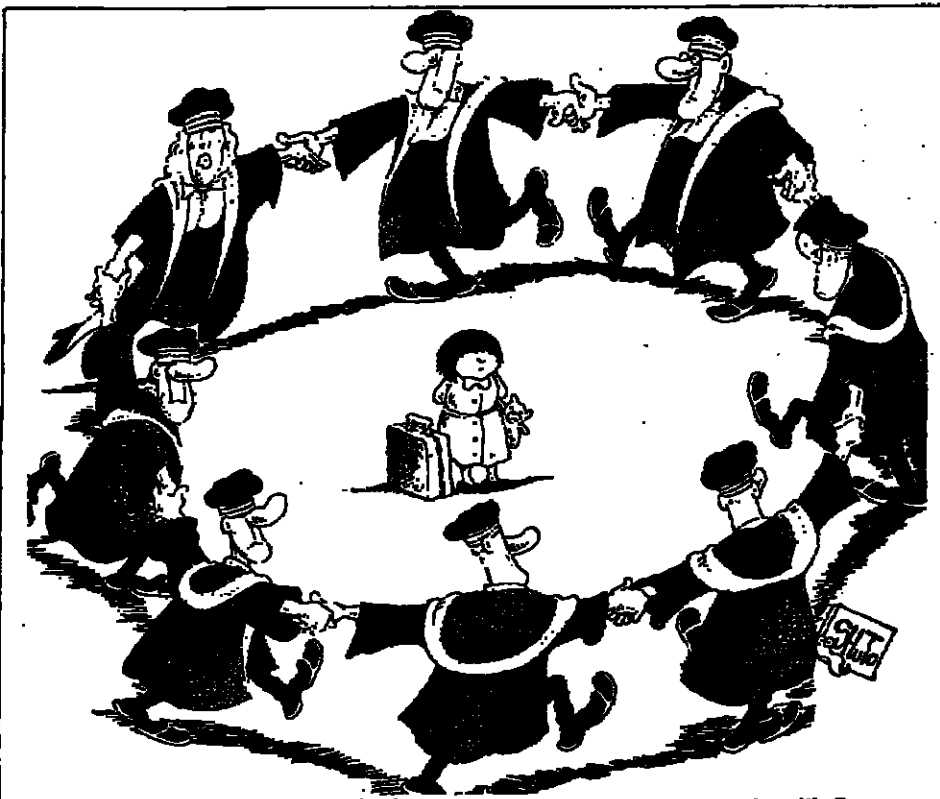
Serena's 'adoptive' parents, Francesco and Rossana Giubergia, a middle class couple in their thirties, appear constantly in headlines and on TV pleading for her return.

"We were fools not to run away into hiding with her when we heard they were after us," said Mrs. Giubergia. "We rescued Serena from misery, disease and an early death. Now she's stolen from us because a judge says papers weren't in order."

The courts are now considering letting Serena be legally adopted by another childless couple.

The Giubergias have a legally adopted five-year-old son, Nazario, also from the Philippines. The boy's pleas for a little sister, they say, talked them into another trip to Manila 16 months ago where Serena was found playing on a rubbish dump.

With the agreement of the child's mother, Mrs. Giubergia declared Serena their natural child on Philippine papers and took her home. The couple refuse to admit that money was



Legal games: La Repubblica's view and (below) Rosana Giubergia with Serena.

paid, but the price in Manila for a child is said to be about £10,000 for girls; boys are more expensive.

The widespread use of contraception and a soaring abortion rate in Italy — despite papal edicts — have reduced the number of 'adoptable' children in Italian orphanages from about 50,000 a decade ago to a few thousand today.

Couples seeking legal adoption spend years, and large sums of money, fighting Italy's complex laws and bureaucratic snarls. Each year, more than 7,000 adoption requests are filed with only 200 couples lasting the course.

The baby market is thriving in southern Italy. In Naples police estimate 600 new-born children are sold each year to couples in affluent northern Italy — Genoa, Milan, Turin. But demand still exceeds supply with the all-Italian bambini the most treasured, expensive and dangerous to purchase. Clinics peddling them through middle-men are often raided by police.



Serena's plight may bring an easing of Italy's adoption laws. Polls show more than 80 per cent of the public want her restored to the Giubergias.

East bloc, USSR employ Filipinos

EASTERN Europe and the Soviet Union have begun to employ Filipino contract workers, according to a World Bank study.

Non-traditional markets like the Soviet Union and socialist countries in Eastern Europe show big potentials for an expanded market for Filipino workers, the study said.

It said one important development was the contract made by a Filipino contractor in 1985 with the Soviet and Polish manpower export industry. The contract was a breakthrough because it opened up another foreign venue of employment for Filipinos, the study said.

There were also reports of construction jobs for Filipinos in the Soviet Union following its intensive development programme.

"These contracts will provide a good multiplier effect in the socialist bloc market," said Lambert Sagalla of the Philippine Central Bank analysing the study of the World Bank.

He said, however, Filipinos may not like the Siberian winter.

"But if Filipinos withstood the heat in the Middle East, perhaps they are resilient enough to withstand the Siberian weather also," he said. (PNA-Xinhua)

New ploy to enter US

IMMIGRATION authorities have uncovered a new modus operandi used by syndicates in smuggling Filipinos into the United States.

According to Ruben Domingo, immigration chief at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the syndicates have started tampering transportation letters, a document being given to permanent residents of the US who have lost their green cards.

Domingo said the latest case of tampering of the transportation letters involved Cesar Lim Canlas, who used the alias Felizardo Blanco in his passport.

Canlas was deported from the US last Wednesday after US immigration authorities discovered the transportation letter he was carrying was tampered.

The name Blanco was in the transportation letter, but immigration agents posted at the airport discovered that the photograph on the letter was substituted with Canlas' photo, said Domingo.

Domingo said it was the third time immigration authorities encountered the modus operandi.

US hopeful on bases

THE United States is confident the country will retain its military bases here beyond 1991 as shown in the military construction programme for Clark Air Base prepared by the US Pacific Air Forces.

Documents furnished by diplomatic sources showed that the upgrading of military facilities from 1989 to 1993, or two years after the termination of the RP-US military bases agreement, will cost the US government some \$463.08 million (P 9.262 billion).

This year, the US government has appropriated \$42.3 million for construction of dormitories at Clark Air Base, intelligence facility, security police operations facility, 260 family housing units, special operations forces, helicopter maintenance facility, special operations forces, special operations forces and refueling hydrant system. Next year, the budget for new facilities will be increased to \$94.5 million.

In 1991, the year for termination of the MBA, the budget will reach to \$129.09 million, \$136.08 million in 1992, and \$60.84 million in 1993.

The ongoing construction at Clark was viewed by Prof. Roland Simbulan as a "direct contempt" on the part of the US Philippine government's "open options policy."



The association of Filipinos in Kuwait (KAPILKU), donated a sum of money for repatriation of Elsa Yabes, a Filipina contract worker. Picture shows Manny Inserto, KAPILKU president giving the donation to Ambassador Alunan C. Glang, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. Also present were (L-R) Jojo Medrano, AVP Welfare and Special Projects, Deputy Chief of Mission and Consul-General Fortunato D. Obiena, Sarah Macarimbang, VP Social & Cultural Affairs, and Alejandro Santos OWWA welfare officer.

Israeli spies accusation 'ridiculous'

ALUNAN C Glang, ambassador of the Philippines to Kuwait has countered the allegations made by Nur Misuari, leader-in-exile of the Moro National Liberation Front.

In an interview with the Associated Press, which was carried by several local paper, Misuari had alleged that Israel had recruited 10,000 Filipino spies in the Arab countries.

Ambassador Glang says, "We have no idea where Mr Misuari got his figure of 10,000. We believe that his statement is all part of MNLF efforts to discredit the Philippine government to implement the Tripoli Agreement in accordance with our constitutional processes, and to win support/sympathy from any concerned party for his bid for membership of the Bangsamoro rebel group in the prestigious OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference)."

"The Filipino nation in general and the Filipinos in particular are grateful to the Arab people and governments, host to several hundred thousand Filipino workers. The Philippine government will not risk to incur the ire and suspicion of the Arab world by sending contract workers that will also work as spies for a foreign government."

"The accusation almost sounds ridiculous. For one, the strict security measures and screening procedures undergone by any aspiring contract worker being conducted by both the Philippine and accepting Arab governments should be enough to deter unwanted elements."

"By saying that 10,000 contract workers have been deployed in

various Arab countries to work as spies for Israel is tantamount to questioning the usefulness of such security/screening procedures and can be considered a form of insult to our Arab hosts who are aware of the kinds of people entering their territorial jurisdictions."

"The mere fact that the Arab countries have generally accepted the Filipino workforce demonstrates the extent of the trust and confidence our Arab brothers have on the present administration in the Philippines."

"It is true that Philippine newspapers reported the loss of a number of passports sometime in the months of May-June 1988 but the number of passports lost was much below the figure of 2,000 claimed by Misuari, and secondly as a result of investigations conducted, it was found out that these passports were lost under the custody of an officer at the Department of Foreign Affairs' Passport Division."

"The lost passports were later traced to travel and recruitment agencies. Nevertheless, after the discovery of the lost passports, all Philippine foreign service establishments (i.e. embassies and consulates) were instructed not to honour such passports if presented, and they were automatically cancelled and declared null and void, rendering them, for all intents and purposes, useless."

"The Israeli Foreign Ministry itself through its spokesman, Mr. Alon Liel, refutes the claim by Mr. Nur Misuari that the Israeli secret service (Mossad) has recruited 10,000 Filipino spies to work in Arab countries."

Reds for peace talks if...

THE communist led National Democratic Front is willing to re-open peace talks with the government or other key political parties to end the 20 year-old insurgency, Jose Ma. Sison, founder of the outlaws Communist Party of the Philippines, has said.

But he immediately cited the elimination of US bases in the Philippines as one of the conditions for "a comprehensive settlement" of the insurgency problem.

The same condition for peace talks had been made by Satur Ocampo, a ranking member of the NDF but this was promptly rejected by President Aquino.



Jaclyn Jose

Actress Jaclyn in car accident

By Ed Valen

A PROMINENT actress was seriously injured and her companion killed when the car she was riding went out of control and collided with another vehicle in Muntinlupa last week, police said.

The actress was identified as Jaclyn Jose, (real name: Mary Jane Guck), of 18 San Andres St., San Beda Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Her companion, identified as Walther Martinez, died instantly.

Investigation showed that Jose's car, a Ford Lasser, was cruising along the South Expressway on the Alabang interchange from Laguna at around 12:30 am when she lost control and hit the car of Antonio Peleros on the opposite lane. Peleros was with his wife, Teresita, when the accident happened.

Golden age of Filipino films recalled

Once upon a time ...

DURING this period of inferior films, it does us good to recall some of the exceptional movies done by Filipino filmmakers in better film times.

This recollection serves to remind us that our movies are not inherently bad or mediocre, but have been rendered thus by production limitations, high taxes, censorship, a lack of professionalism, and a generally commercial orientation.

The first Filipino movie I saw that opened my eyes to the exceptional talent of some of our filmmakers was *El Filibusterismo*, by Gerry de Leon.

The dramatic and painterly composition of the shots in the movie, its relatively meticulous production design, and some powerful performances prompted me to write my first film review, at a time when local movies were deemed unworthy of discussion in English-language publications. De Leon's "operatic" staging and direction caught moviegoers up in the sweep of events and characters that emerged, full-bodied and vital, from the filmmaker's grand imagination.

Exceptional
Images from other exceptional films linger: From Bert Avelina's *Bagdas*, the shot of Tony Santos, Sr. raising his newborn son and hurling him into the sea, to test his "right to live." From *Portrait of an Artist as a Filipino* the scene in which the lonely recluse played by Flaming Vidal prowled about his old house in the dead of night.

From *Biyaan ng Lupa*, the passage of time poetically visualized through the cycles of growth, flowering and harvest in a grove of lanzones trees. In *Kundimang*

Lahi, shots of erstwhile farmers as cogs in a new factory. In *Dalagang Api*, the scene in which Barbara Perez gives birth on a carabao sled during a storm.

The finest satire produced in the country to date is Manuel Conde's *Juan Tamad Goes to Congress*, with its riotously effective digs at Philippine politics and society in general. Conde also stunned audiences abroad with his epic *Cenghis Khan* a production designed by the late National Artist, Botong Francisco.

Eddie Romero's *Gaite Kami Noon*, *Papaano Kayo Ngayon* is one of the most perceptive Filipino movies ever made. It uses a tongue-in-cheek approach to arrive at a profound understanding of the sometimes conflicting natures of the Filipino.

Lino Brocka's *Maynila sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag*, by Mike de Leon, dramatized the torment of innocents trapped in the big city. A more "adult" treatment of a similar theme was Ismael Bernal's *City After Dark*. As director Mike de Leon came into his own with *Batch '81* and *Sister Stella L.*

A number of other outstanding Filipino films have made their critical mark both here and abroad, eliciting people's admiration for the quality of work turned in by our filmmakers, despite the fact that "commercial" dictates are currently forcing them to compromise their craft in order to remain active on the film scene. Here's to the day when we can revive our much-admired tradition of quality. Until then, these memories can help sustain our flagging spirits.



Bankrupt worker slashes wrists

Home from Libya without a penny

By Tony S. Bergonia

THE flight home, even in the economy class, is Cloud Nine for most overseas workers.

But to Angelito Sigua's yesterday, it was like a pit of fire, burning his sense as the plane sped closer home.

Feeling unable to face a family waiting for money he won't be able to give, Sigua slashed his wrist minutes before touchdown at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

A doctor and a co-passenger by the name of Dr. Lim saved his life with an emergency treatment aboard the plane.

Wheeled from the NAI infirmary where he was immediately taken, Sigua recounts his agony started seven months ago when he learned that Speedex, the company he was working for, was losing money.

The firm, he had learned, had not been sending his monthly pay to his family in Arayat, Pampanga. "Hindi ko alam kung anong gagawin ko (I didn't know what to do)," Sigua said when asked why he tried to commit suicide.

Nahihiya daw siya sa pamilya niya," said one of the NAI nurses who treated him.

Get set for Mini-Olympics

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (KAPILKU) will hold its 9th Annual Palarong Filipino — Mini Olympics on May 12 at Keifan Gym and Holiday Inn Hotel. The theme this year, is *Isig ng Manggagawa*.

enhance physical fitness of the participants, he said.

Vice-President for Sports & Recreation Freddie Fernando and chairman of the palaro is optimistic that this year will be the "most glamorous and colourful sports festival" with more than 50 teams competing.

Meetings

Men's Division: billiard, dama and Sikaran-Karate Men's & Women's Divisions; basketball, bowling, volleyball, swimming, badminton, lawn tennis, table tennis, chess, darts and track & field.

KAPILKU President Manny Inserto, hopes that this spectacular sports event will bring "unity & brotherhood to all Filipinos in all walks of life here in Kuwait." Competing in their respective sports will also

There will be a general meeting of all the Chairmen, vice-chairmen, of each sports committee together with all the managers, coaches, team captains and any representative from the participating teams on Friday, April 21 at Holy Family Cathedral, Church Hall, at 2:30 p.m.

Final entries and entrance fees for each event must be submitted during the meeting to the chairman of the Palaro.

Important matters such as rules and regulations of the games will be explained to all

Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons W.L.L.

Ay nangangailangan ng mga dalubhasang Manggagawa sa larangan ng mga sumusunod:

- 'AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION'
- 'ELECTRONIC FUEL INJECTION'
- PAGBABABA NG MAKINA (ENGINE OVERHAUL)
- PANGKALAHATANG PAGMEMEKANIKO (GENERAL MECHANIC)
- PINTOR (PAINT RESTORER)
- LATERO (PANEL BEATER)
- DIESEL (DIESEL MECHANIC)

Kailangang nakatapos ng mataas na paaralan o 'Vocational School' at may tatlong (3) taong karanasan sa pag-gawa ng sasakyang yari sa Amerika. Hapon o Europa, makakagawa ng hindi nangangailangan ng palagiag pagtuturo, at may kakayahan sa pagsasalita ng Ingles.

Ang sahod ay ibabase sa kakayahan at dating karanasan. Ang mga interesado ay mangyari lamang na sumadya sa nasabing tanggapan dala ang dalawang (2) larawan, xerox ng pasaporte, at 'bio-data' na nagdedetalye ng mga dating karanasan sa:

Personnel Group
YUSUF A. ALGHANIM & SONS W.L.L.
Shuwaikh Industrial Area
Airport Road (Infront of Telecoms Bldg.)
Tel. 4842988/4843988 local 2438 (ext.)

Ang inyong pagsadya ay aming pangangailagang malithin.

هكذا امت الأصل

EVENTS



Nirhanjali, an Abbasiya-based group staged Nopuradhwani, an Indian classical and folk dance programme at the Indian Arts Circle on April 14. The programme was directed by Gijra Radhakrishnan. Picture above shows some of the students performing a group dance.

BBC Highlights

Who was Hitler?

Adrian Boult: Sir Adrian Boult was still conducting in 1978, at the age of 89. He lacked the flash of Sir Malcolm Sargent and the fizz of Sir John Barbirolli but his strong and steady interpretations won him a deep respect wherever they were headed. It was Boult who, in 1918, "first caused the planets to shine in public" as the composer Holst wrote in a thank-you note. Michael Kennedy, Boult's biographer, knew him well and over the next four weeks he presents a musical portrait of the great British conductor. (Apr. 21, 1330 hrs; Rep. 2015).

Who was Hitler? Adolf Hitler's twin goals were the elimination of the world's Jews and the conquest of more territory for Germany, particularly at the expense of the Soviet Union. It was these aims which led to a war that decimated the population of the world and split the continent of Europe in two. The dictator's secretary Traudi Junge is among the contributors to this investigation of Hitler by Christopher Andrew. (Apr. 15, 2200 hrs; Apr. 17, 1815 hrs).

Meridian: Charlie Chaplin: In 1913 Charlie Chaplin was an

obscure music hall artist struggling against a background of acute poverty. Two years later he was hailed by Motion Picture Magazine as 'a little Englishman surcharged with dynamite' and had become one of the best-known figures in the world. To celebrate the centenary of Chaplin's birth Elizabeth Burke talks to people who knew and worked with him. (Apr. 18, 2300 hrs; Apr. 19, 0930 hrs).

A Pair of Spectacles: Sydney Grundy's melodrama was first produced at the Garrick Theatre in 1890. It is the story of Benjamin Goldfinch (Frank Middlemass) a glib, wealthy landlord who can never bring himself to raise his rents. When his brother Gregory proves to him that the latest hard-luck story presented by one of his tenants is a fabrication, he drops his spectacles, smashing them to pieces. He borrows Gregory's and suddenly sees things in a different light. (Apr. 16, 1501 hrs).

Recommended frequencies for Kuwait: 15.070 MHz/19.19m; 11.760MHz/25.51m; 14.13MHz/21.2MW; (1745-18:30 & 1900-2030).



Saeed Hal, national coach and team captain pictured here with the successful Pakistani Davis Cup team when they played the second round of their group at the SAS Hotel courts in Kuwait.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum
RAMADAN timings Sat - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7-10 pm. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world on show.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

THEATRE

Reflections
April 22-27 (8.30 pm): The School of Contemporary

Dance will present a repertoire of ballet entitled "Reflections" at the Mousetrap Theatre to celebrate their 15th anniversary. Tickets - KD 4. Box office open from 4-6.30 pm. Sat-Wed; ticket order: answer phone - 5382099, 2-6 pm.

Hindi play
MAY 4/5: 8 pm. Sharq Cooperative Society. Natya Bharati presents Hindi play entitled "Bin Baat ke Deep", followed by dinner catered by Caesars. For entry and dinner passes contact Tel: 4880965; 5623810; 3725627.

SOCIAL

Filipino Cultural Show
DANCERS, singers and backstage helpers are needed for a Filipino cultural show, due to be held in June. Contact the Filipino Cultural Club for details or call Florence 2439451/2423171; Lito Matiga - 2417965/2417767.

British Council
"TO THE LIGHTHOUSE" this month's feature film, has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances. The film was scheduled for showing April 15/16. A British Council press release regrets "any inconvenience caused" to the public.

Kuwait Little Theatre
April 20: KLT, Ahmadi, will present entertainment to celebrate the St Georges Day at Unity Centre, Ahmadi, in the presence of the British ambassador. Tickets KD2 including buffet. Tel: 3983724, 3985964, 3919759.

Bayanhan
APRIL 21: A get-together for KAPILKU members will be held at the Church Hall from 2.30 to 6.30 pm. All Filipinos are welcome. Free admission.

Summer Affair '88
MAY 6: The Weekend Club will hold the Summer Affair 89 at Regency Palace Hotel on the first day of Eid. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers in attendance. Highlights: Five contest, gala buffet and selection of Summer Queen contest. Tel: Hilary Barretto 5741380 (2-7.30 pm); Julio 5734513 (5 pm onwards); and Mercedes 4890566 (from 3 pm).

Remo's Show
MAY 11: The Expatriates Club will hold a dinner-musical at the SAS Hotel. Remo, India's pop-star will be the star performer. City Limits and Perfect Strangers in attendance. For details call Tony 2415439; Wilson - 3918905 (office hours); Val - 5614504 after 2 pm.



A scene from Ranga Pooja.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 News
30 Composer of the Month (ex 23rd A Midsummer Night's Dream)

0100 News Summary (ex 23rd) followed by Play of the Week: 2nd and 9th Body and Soul; 16th A Pair of Spectacles; 23rd A Midsummer Night's Dream

0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The Girl in His Past (ex 2nd The Picture of Dorian Gray)

30 The Ken Bruce Show
0300 World News
09 News About Britain
15 The Picture of Dorian Gray

30 The Ken Bruce Show
0400 News
30 Sing Gospel
45 Worldbrief

0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Financial Review
40 Words of Faith
45 Letter from America
30 Book Choice
45 Short Story

1000 News Summary followed by Science in Action
30 In Praise of God
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent

30 Composer of the Month (ex 23rd A Midsummer Night's Dream)
1200 News Summary (ex 23rd) followed by Play of the Week: 2nd and 9th Body and Soul; 16th A Pair of Spectacles; 23rd A Midsummer Night's Dream

1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Sports Roundup
45 Worldbrief
1400 News Summary followed by leaders and leadership
30 Anything Goes
1500 News
15 Concert Hall (ex 9th Sports-world)

1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Russia - The Drive to Empire
45 Letter from America
15 In Praise of God (ex 2nd and 9th Jazz for the Asking)
45 Sports Roundup

1800 News
30 2nd and 9th In Praise of God; 16th and 30th Composer of the Month; 23rd A Midsummer Night's Dream
1900 News Summary (ex 23rd) followed by Play of the Week (ex 2nd and 9th Here's Humphrey!); 16th A Pair of Spectacles; 23rd A Midsummer Night's Dream

15 Time Will Tell
2000 World News
09 Worldbrief
25 Words of Faith
30 My Music
2100 News Summary followed by Sports Roundup
15 The Pleasure's Yours

Urdu

0800 Easy Listening
0830 News
0840 Easy Listening
1000 Songs and Music
1300 Easy Listening
1330 News
1400 Classical Music
1600 Easy Listening
1700 Latin American Hour
1800 Pops
1900 Helter Skelter
2130 News
2145 Pops
2200 Jazz Hour
2300 Easy Listening
2400 Instrumental Music
0300 Closedown

1900 Opening
1910 Belterren Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Ek Khayal Ek Geet
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Geet Kahani
2100 Closedown

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Space Balls
Starring: John Kennedy, Rick Moran

Al Salam
A Night on the Town
Al Fikra
Ala Umni (Arabic)
Starring: Iham Shahin, Mohsin Mohiuddin

Drive-In
Al Sharidah (Arabic)
Starring: Najla Fathi, Mahmoud Yassin

Al Firdous
Love Story (Hindi)
Starring: Kumar Gaurav, Vijeta Pandit

Fahad Open-air
Rampur ka Lakshman (Hindi)

Al Fahad
Great Monkey Rip-off
Al Juhra
Pacific Connection
Granada
Fant S'les Faire Ces Legio Naires (French)

Sadikhat
Asfour Al Sharq (Arabic)
Al Jeeb
Rahsyam Paramrahasyam (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-in
Raging Vendetta

Pakistani Eid Dinner
FIRST Day of Eid: There will be an "Eid Milan" dinner for the Pakistani community, organised by Yasmin Muzaffar. Tel: 5385341.

May Queen
May 11: Kuwait Goans will crown the May Queen at Messiah Beach Hotel. Top Ranks and Next of Kin in attendance. Highlights of the evening will be Alexandre Rosario's performance. For details call 2413348; 4881387.

Casualty Cricket Club
MAY 18: 8 pm, Messiah Beach Hotel: Annual dinner with special guest speaker Brian Close, former captain of England and Yorkshire. Live music. For tickets and information call Simon Clements - 5333248; or Val Tudball - 5327159.

Kuwait Caledonians
MAY 18: Messiah Beach Hotel. The Caledonians will hold a "celebration" (gathering) with entertainment by John Carmichael and others. Tel: 5335082; 3727690 ext. 253.

HOTELS

At Ramada Al Salam
El Bender: offers special iftar and suhoor buffet; Al Gandoul Grill Garden, open in the evenings offers a selection of grills in

the ambience of a waterfall. Al Mawardi Garden: After iftar, relax in the open-air with a cup of tea or coffee and watch a selection of movies on the big screen.

At the Holiday Inn
Coffee Shop: Offers iftar buffet every evening. Babylon and Lobby Cafe: A variety of Arabian sweets and fresh fruits with Jellab juice. Trio Dimension provides music up to 10 pm.

At the International
LA PALMA: Iftar buffet from a different country each week; begins in Egypt and goes on to Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Kuwait. It will be open from 6 pm to 3 am for suhoor.

At the Plaza
NOURA Terrace: open from 7 pm to 12 midnight, featuring Lebanese mezzeh and other treats.

At the Dallah Coffee Shop:
offers a la carte or dinner buffet featuring Arabic, Continental or Asian food. Speciality: plat du jour.

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 11.00 Holy Quran and National Anthem
- 11.24 Cartoons
- 11.38 Religious programme
- 12.30 Cultural programme
- 1.00 News in brief
- 1.06 World Today via Satellite
- 1.33 Cartoon serial
- 2.00 Historical serial
- 3.05 Religious programme
- 3.38 Arabic daily serial: Daerat Al Naar
- 4.33 Ramadan competition
- 4.58 Arabic daily serial: Al Rihaya
- 6.28 Cartoon serial
- 6.51 After Iftar talk
- 7.01 Children serial: Al Tama'a
- 8.10 Drwanayat Shuara Al Nabat
- 9.01 Religious programme
- 9.24 Ramadan competition
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.45 Arabic daily serial: A'ad Wa Lakin
- 11.41 Daily entertainment



Some of the actors of 'Glory Enough for All' on KTV2 at 11.30 pm.

- programme
- 12.00 Arabic daily serial: Al Talathiya
- 12.55 Arabic feature film - Al Majnoon
- 2.51 News in brief
- 3.03 World Today via Satellite
- 3.28 Closedown

- who the killer is. Starring! Angela Lansbury
- 10.30 Nature Watch: "Octopus."
- 11.00 Eisenhower and Lutz: "The Whiplash Kid Returns." Part 2. Megan tells Lutz not to meet his former girl-friend.
- 11.30 Best-Seller: "Glory Enough for All." Part 2. The story of Frederick Banting, who won the Nobel Prize for discovering insulin at the turn of the century
- 1.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 8.00 Holy Quran
- 8.10 Islamic Horizon
- 8.20 Cartoons
- 8.30 Scientific Eye: "Shape and Strength." The shape of things and their strength.
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.40 Forty Hadith Qudsi
- 9.50 Murder, She Wrote: "Murder Through the Looking Glass." A dead body is found in a river, and Jessica believes she knows

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Alamia Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Ajeel Pharmacy
Palestine St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Shamsan Pharmacy
Ibn Khalid St.

Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Razan Pharmacy
Al Razi St.

Fahad and Ahmadi
Abu Halifa
Coastal Road

Jahra
Al Shuyoukh
Wahran Pharmacy
Souk St.

Jahra
Abraj Pharmacy
Dabal Al Khazaci St.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.58 am
Zuhr	11.48 am
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghreb	6.15 pm
Isha	7.35 pm

RAMADAN TIMINGS

Imrak	3.48 am
Iftar	6.15 pm

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Applicants should fulfil the following:
1 - A minimum 3 years' experience
2 - Valid transferable residence

For appointment for tests, please call Tel. 4813127, 4817289 from 11.00 am - 3.00 pm.

Bon Voyage

With Air France this summer!
From Kuwait

From Kuwait to Paris				
Tuesday	AF151	Dep. 01:35	Arr. 07:00	Tuesday
Thursday	AF139	Dep. 23:59	Arr. 07:15	Friday
Saturday	AF159	Dep. 09:05	Arr. 14:30	Saturday
From Paris to Kuwait				
Monday	AF150	Dep. 11:30	Arr. 18:25	Monday
Thursday	AF138	Dep. 14:15	Arr. 22:45	Thursday
Friday	AF158	Dep. 19:00	Arr. 01:55	Saturday

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ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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ACCOMMODATION

For Rent

SALWA, Block 11, behind the American School, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large hall in a CAC flat with water and electricity. Tel. 2453535 (mornings), 5638283 (evenings).

(AT1-46886-3)

MISHREF, Block 4, Street 7, Villa 36, first floor with 2 bedrooms, one bathroom, living room, kitchen, dining room, CAC, including swimming pool and tele. line. Rent KD325, with water and electricity. Tel. Andy, 5385094, mornings; 2401908, after 8 pm.

(AT1-46913-3)

MISHREF, part of a villa, with 2 bedrooms, large saloon and balcony, 2 kitchens, CAC. Tel. 2400040, 9.30am-1 pm; 5390818, 3.30-5.30 pm.

(AT1-TM-3)

Available

FARWANIYA main street, opp. the clinic. One room in a two bedroom flat for a bachelor to share with a Goan family. Tel. Mr. D'Sa 4810051, 7am to 2pm.

(AT2-46910-3)

SALMIYA, end of Amman St. beside Funoon Video centre facing 5th ring road, semi-furnished room with kitchen/tele facilities for a bachelor to share with an Indian family. Rent KD 50. Tel. 5643995, 8 am - 10 pm.

(AT6-46905-3)

SALMIYA, one big room available near Salmiya shopping centre for a small family, workign lady or bachelor, to share with an Indian family. Tel. 5727023, 7 - 10 pm.

(AT6-46865-3)

SALMIYAH, behind the fire station, Bldg. No. 9. One spacious room with a separate kitchen for a working girls' or family to share with an Indian family. Rent KD 60 pm. Tel. Vipan Oberoi, 4740801, 8 am - 3 pm.

(AT6-46889-3)

QADSIYA, Block 7, Street 79, House 12. Rooms in an Arabic house, for families. Contact personally, from 8.30 - 11.30 pm.

(AT1-46924-2)

FOR SALE

Computers

APPLE IIC with complete accessories including original Apple works software, brand new Apple scribe printer — ideal for business/home use. Best offer. Tel. 5611522.

(AT2-46877-3)

Cars

MITSUBISHI, Colt 1983, automatic, white, first registered in 1986, in good condition. KD 550. Tel. Louis, 2414469, evenings after 7 pm.

(AT6-46814-3)

BMW 735i, '84 model, without number, 42,000, brown metallic, in excellent condition. KD3,550, cash or instalments. Tel. Mr. Mossa, 5627185, 5636138, 7 am - 12.30 pm.

(AT1-46914-3)

CHEVROLET Impala 1982, beige, in excellent condition. KD 1100. Tel. 4842512, 3 - 9 pm.

(AT6-46867-3)

MITSUBISHI Galant, supersaloon 1983, rear wheel drive, A.C., automatic doors, wheels and gear, in very good condition. KD 790 ono. Insured up to Feb. 90. Tel. 3926159.

(AT6-46870-2)

NISSAN Stanza, 1984, white 4 doors, A.C., automatic, hatchback, sunroof, 48,000 kms, in good condition. KD 900, cash or instalments. Tel. 2403260.

(AT1-46913-3)

REQUIRED
Experienced Pakistani and Indian male/female
Telephone attendants
Must speak English and Arabic fluently. Typing will be an added qualification. Visa can be provided.
Tel. 2611285, 7 to 10 pm or 9031609.

TOYOTA Corona, 1982 late model with A.C., new battery and tyres in very good condition. Tel. 2461135 ext. 267.

(AT6-TM-3)

BUICK Century, 1980 model, fully automatic, A/C, 4-door, gold metallic, radio, from European owner, in very good condition. KD 650, cash. Tel. 5612979, 4-7 pm.

(AT1-46936-3)

FRIGIDAIRE, West German double bedroom set, sofa set, air-conditioners, cooking range and washing machine, in good condition, for sale at reasonable prices. Tel. Mr. Richard, 5639946.

(AT1-46907-3)

SUZUKI RM 250, motorcycle, 1986, in excellent condition. KD450 — trailer available. Honda 250 cc, three wheeler, KD280. Honda Odyssey with trailer, KD300. Tel. Wade, 4873968, 3713511; 7 am - 1 pm, 3 - 9 pm.

(AT1-46912-6)

ARABIC and English typewriter machine and also photocopy machine for sale. Tel. Mr. Faisal, 2648729.

(AT1-46900-3)

YAMAHA B75 organ in excellent condition for sale, KD375, negotiable. Tel. 2446356, after 3 pm.

(AT6-46866-3)

"FOR professional guitar players" new Yamaha amplifier 250 watts & Yamaha loud speaker 150 watts price KD150. Also available a "baby-foot" game for KD50. Tel. 2527814, after 2 pm.

(AT6-46897-3)

OLD Middle East stamp collection (1920-1960) for sale, includes, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan etc. Price KD500. Tel. 4744473 morning, 5339638 evening.

(AT6-46880-3)

BAYAN, Area 10, Block 10, House 27. Open house, Saturday 2 - 5 pm. Video KD60; 7 pieces stereo, KD100; sofa set, KD175; new no frost refrigerator, KD130; table, KD15; and carpets, KD35.

(AT1-46909-2)

KUWAIT City near G.P.O., one bedroom flat with some furniture and telephone for sale. KD 500/- New rent KD 135. Tel. 2420473.

(AT2-46934-2)

LIVING room furniture, big fancy chairs and sofa, cream colour, new price KD850 used 6 months, will sell now KD350 (fixed). Tel. 4731229, after 7 pm.

(AT6-46882-3)

FRIGIDAIRE, West German double bedroom set, sofa set, air-conditioners, cooking range and washing machine, in good condition, for sale at reasonable prices. Tel. Mr. Richard, 5639946.

(AT1-46907-3)

SUZUKI RM 250, motorcycle, 1986, in excellent condition. KD450 — trailer available. Honda 250 cc, three wheeler, KD280. Honda Odyssey with trailer, KD300. Tel. Wade, 4873968, 3713511; 7 am - 1 pm, 3 - 9 pm.

(AT1-46912-6)

LOST
PURSE containing Civil card, identity card (Askari), gate pass, bank card and bus pass in the name of Mohammad Akram Mohammad Hussain. Finder please 5651454.

(AT2-46925-3)

IDENTITY card, Civil card and bank card in the name of Mr. Bashir Ahmed Yunos. Finder please Tel. 2424976, 4749655 or write to P.O. Box 24081, 13101 Safat, Kuwait.

(AT2-46927-2)

SERVICES

Transport

REQUIRED for a lady, from Salmiya, Indian School to Sabah Salem area, Fahahel Road, 8.30 am - 4.30 pm. During Ramadan, 7 am - 1 pm. Tel. 5519468.

(AT1-46920-3)

REQUIRED from Hassawi to Fahahel in the mornings. Tel. Tahir, 4313195, after 3 pm.

(AT6-46881-3)

Tuition

TUITION in English, for ladies and gentlemen given by an experienced teacher, in Murgab. Tel. Mr. Zakiuddin, 2426105.

(AT6-46894-3)

PETS

GERMAN Shepherd, black and gold, 4 months old for sale. Tel. 3983026.

(AT2-46933-3)

SITUATIONS

Wanted

EXECUTIVE secretary/office manager, Indian, highly experienced in self-correspondence, shorthand, typing, telex, fax, L/Cs, banking, air/sea cargo clearing procedures and personnel matters, seeks position. Tel. 5656927.

(AT1-46911-3)

BELGIAN horticulture specialist landscape designer, with 3 years' Middle East experience, seeking job. Write to B. Jacobs, P.O. Box 6830, Riyadh 11452, Saudi Arabia. Tel. 246-3444-721 (111), 246-2815-336.

(AT1-46906-3)

Vacant

MAID required immediately. Tel. 4810258.

(AT6-46815-3)

MAID required, Filipino, for a small Lebanese family to live-in. Must speak English and be good with children. Visa will be provided. Tel. 2415415.

(AT2-46935-3)

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Pis write to P.O. Box 26820, Safat-13130, Kuwait or contact Tel: 2458034/2459035 from 7.30 to 12.30 and 4.30 to 7.00 pm.

Bargain House
Tel. 5744017

(AT1-46920-3)

DRIVER and mechanic required, fulltime. Tel. Hossam, 5755887.

(AT2-ML-3)

MAID required, any nationality for a small family with two children to live-in in Salmiya. Must speak good English. Tel. Mrs. Mahmoud 5746705, 5-8 pm.

(AT2-46926-3)

MAID required for a family with 2 children, must speak English and be good with children. Must have transferable residence. Tel. George, 4810377 ext. 281, 8 am - 2 pm, 3928801; 5-8 pm.

(AT6-46903-3)

DRIVER required with Kuwaiti driving licence for a family. Tel. 2402528, 2402528.

(AT2-46921-3)

HOUSEMAID required of any nationality. Part-time or full time. Contact Mr. Abdul Saleem personally: Shop No. 18, First Floor, Souk Al Kharrat, Mubarakia, Kuwait City.

(AT1-46896-3)

MAID required, Filipino for a family with 3 children. Fulltime in Salwa. Tel. 5638964 after 2.30 pm.

(AT2-46932-3)

NAME CHANGE
I, FANKADASHI Nakhiv Lashman, holder of Indian passport No. U 910711, issued at Bombay on 29.8.1983, hereby change my name to Jitendra Kumar.

(AT1-46908-2)

WANTED
WANTED a Peugeot 505 station wagon (box), model 1987, and up preferably automatic and in good condition. Tel. Mr. Ahmed, 2658137.

(AT1-46876-3)

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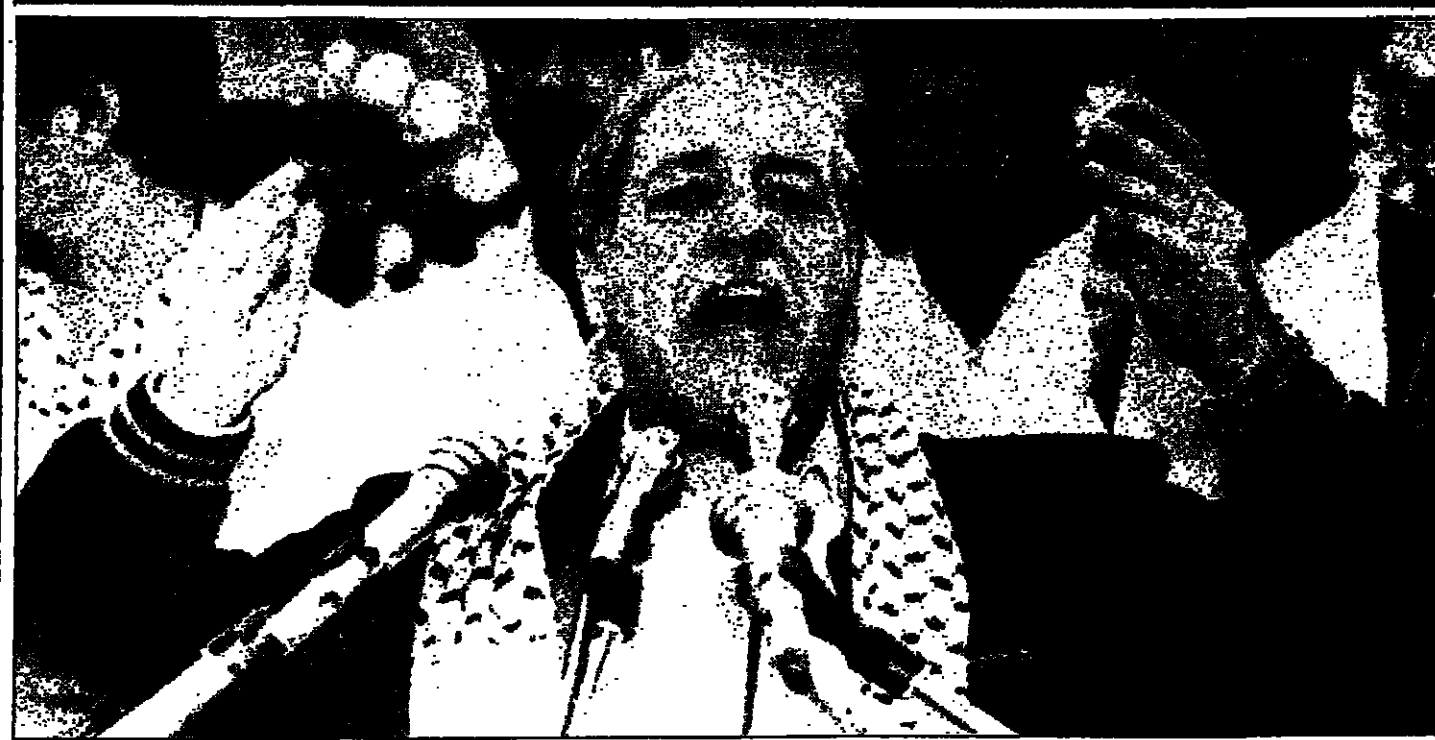
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SPORTS

DARTS

Baggs move closer to League title

AS the K.B.R.C. Monday League draws to a close, Baggs moved closer to retaining their League crown with a good 4-2 win at Cottar Hoose, despite three high scores from Marshall Byers, and now require one more win from their last two games.

Nearest rivals Tanker Co. went down to Cunning Linguists 4-2, 2-1 as the visitors showed superb Mickey Mouse form in taking both the last two games easily. The highlight of the four singles matches was a 140 for Erik Christensen in his 5 high scores.

Straight As A Dai's last hopes went in a 3-3 draw with Ragamuffins, and Dai-A-Straights joined Cottar Hoose and Pacifists in a 3-way tie for ladies third after losing 2-0 to Ragabags. Pacifists unmercifully pounded Mishraf into submission 6-0 and 2-1 for their best win ever, and Exiles did enough to beat Wallbangers 4-2.

In the K.B.R.C. Wednesday League, the long awaited showdown between Soweto Slingers and H2O proved an extremely exciting affair, though inconclusive as they played out a 3-3 draw. Erik Christensen duly completed a League double over Ian Thomas as both players hit 3 high scores, before Richard Ellis held on to beat Peter Zobrist 2-1, despite Peter's 17 dart second leg that featured 140, 100, and 139.

Geoff Clark again found all wires on his doubles as Ken Edwards sneaked home 2-1 with the aid of a 140 in his farewell appearance for H2O, and it was left to the fifth Slinger Doug Francis to tie the match at 2-2 beating Keith Chandler 2-0.

Agreed

Both Mickey Mouse games were splendid contests, which could have gone either way, but at the end players and spectators alike agreed a draw was a fair result.

Has Beans held onto 3rd with 4-2, 2-0 wins over Nobblers, with Nobby Burton hitting 5 high scores. Shipwrecks slowed Bulls Hitters charge for 3rd by taking a point from them despite John Watson's 4 100's, and also shocked their ladies by winning 2-1.

Equalisers added to Middle Eastenders recent miseries with a 4-2 win, as 2nd placed MEE Ladies also slumped 0-2. Dave Ball had a good night with a 140 and a 17 dart finish, as did Angela Soboh getting two scoring Mickey Mouse trebles.

Shower of Tossers returned to winning ways 5-1 and 2-1 against Fintas Flyers, and Entente Cordiale beat Dinar Soarers 5-1, though Wilson hit 3 high scores for Chucklers, but Rondels held on for a 3-3 draw, although Chucklers persistence paid off with their 4th win, 2-1 over Rondelettes.

WBC fight

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, April 15, (AP): Tunisian Camel Bou Ali defended his World Boxing Council (WBC) superfeatherweight title last night, beating Argentine Manuel Billalba on points.

Botham racing against time to prove himself fully fit

LONDON, April 15, (Reuters): Ian Botham has six weeks to prove he can still be a force bowling at cricket's highest level. The Worcestershire all-rounder, out for nearly a year after a serious back operation, learned yesterday he cannot expect to win an England recall on reputation alone.

But England's new selectors' chairman Ted Dexter said Botham's outstanding record would be taken into consideration when the team for the first one-day international against Australia is named.

With that match just six weeks away, Dexter said: "You have to take his reputation into account. There are not many people who have made 14 Test hundreds and taken 373 wickets and are still willing and able."

Record

"It remains to be seen how willing and able he is. But given reasonable fitness and form his record will obviously stand him in good stead."

Many expect Botham to regain his

touch with the bat. But a major question mark remains over his bowling ability and the 33-year-old will be anxious to impress when champions Worcestershire lift the curtain on the English season against MCC in a four-day match beginning today.

Asked whether Botham could be used against the Australians simply as a specialist batsman, Dexter said: "It would be a huge bonus if he can bowl. If he can't, it will be harder for him to get in."

Sabatini in semifinals

Graf tames Mandlikova



Sabatini to meet Navratilova

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla., April 15, (Reuters): Gabriela Sabatini came back from one set down to beat Angeliki Kanellopoulou of Greece and join Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova in the semifinals of the Amelia Island tennis tournament yesterday.

The third-seeded Sabatini was broken twice in the first set by Kanellopoulou but was perfect on serve after that and went on to post a 4-6 6-3 6-3 victory to reach the semifinals where she will play Navratilova.

Coasting

Navratilova, the second seed, beat her fellow-American Kathy Rinaldi 6-1 6-4, coasting to victory after winning the opening set by a speedy 24 minutes.

Top-seeded Graf posted her 30th successive match win by beating Hana Mandlikova, the one-time world number three, 6-3 6-4.

Graf's opponent in the semifinals will be Spaniard

Arantxa Sanchez, the sixth seed, who defeated Judith Wiesner of Austria 6-4 7-5 to advance.

Graf, unbeatable on serve for the third straight match, saw room for improvement after her brisk 66-minute victory.

"I wasn't 100 per cent about my game," she said. "I'm not too happy, I think I can play better."

Paid

On the other hand, Mandlikova, the Czechoslovak-born Australian who is making a comeback after nagging hamstring injuries, was pleased despite her defeat.

"Overall, I'm happy with the way I played. It makes me feel like the work I put in has paid off," she said.

Graf also gave Mandlikova good marks. "She was having a little bit of trouble with her rhythm. She's hitting the ball well but she needs a couple of more tournaments," she said.

Lendl to miss Italian Open

ROME, April 15, (AP): The Italian Open tennis championships is promising a top field next month but failed to lure the world's top ranked male and female players to the clay court classic, organizers said yesterday.

Ivan Lendl, the defending champion who denounced the rowdy crowd last year, and Steffi Graf, who didn't enter in 1988, won't be on hand.

But organizers announced a field that includes Mats Wilander, Andre Agassi, John McEnroe, Kent Carlsson, Jimmy Connors, Yannick Noah and Miloslav Mecir among the men and Martina Navratilova, defending champion Gabriela Sabatini, Chris Evert and Man-

uela Maleeva among the women. "Let's talk about those who are coming, not those who are not," tournament director Franco Bartoni insisted at a news conference at the Foro Italico championship site.

The Rome tournament is offering \$1 million in prize money for the men and \$300,000 for the women.

Entered

As in the previous two years, since women returned to the event after a seven-year absence, the Open will be held in two stages: the women play from May 8-14 followed by the men May 15-21.

Bartoni explained that Lendl was cutting back on his tour-

namment play, though he noted Lendl's remarks last year when he blasted the crowd behaviour; the balls as being too heavy and even the pollen in the spring air in Rome.

As for Graf, the 1987 Rome champion, Bartoni said the West German athlete has entered tournaments in Hamburg a week before Rome and Berlin a week after. "Rome would be too many tournaments for her," he said.

Still, the men's event has one of its strongest fields in years with the No. 2 ranked Wilander, fifth ranked Agassi and the newly competitive McEnroe, who has climbed to sixth place in the world rankings and just led the US to a sweep of France in Davis Cup play.

McEnroe beats Borg again

TAIPEI, April 15, (Reuters): John McEnroe extended his reign of supremacy over former rival Bjorn Borg yesterday with a comfortable 6-2 7-5 win in the third match of their four-game exhibition tennis series.

McEnroe, who ended Borg's run of five successive Wimbledon titles when he won their final in 1981, clowning about and repeatedly disputed line calls as he swept to his third victory of the series following wins in Singapore and Manila.

Last

Borg, long retired for the professional circuit and playing in what he says will be his last exhibition series, has one last

chance at redressing the balance when the pair meet again in the final match in Hiroshima, Japan. McEnroe dominated the first set but then trailed 5-3 in the second as the Swede found range and rhythm to match his characteristically ice-cool temperament.

Climb

But the American, currently ranked sixth in the world, moved up a gear and swept the next four games to clinch the match.

In a preliminary doubles exhibition, Filipinos Rod Raefael and Julio Carluen defeated Taiwan's Wu Changron and Hsu Huang-Rong 7-6, 6-2.

Curren and Svensson eliminated

HOUSTON, April 15, (UPI): Top-seeded Kevin Curren and second-seeded Jonas Svensson each lost the last five games of their quarterfinal matches yesterday and were eliminated from the \$200,000 American Capital Invitational tennis tournament.

Curren blew a 5-2 lead in the third set to lose to seventh-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, while Svensson was upset in straight sets by unseeded Leonardo Lavalle of Mexico, 6-2, 6-2.

Rostagno advanced to the semifinals with a 6-4, 7-6 (11-9) victory over Jim Courier. Oresar defeated Nicklaus Kult of Sweden, 7-5, 6-2, in a rain-delayed quarterfinal match last night.

Upset

Curren lost the first set to Gustafsson and faced elimination in straightsets, but he bounced back from a 4-1 deficit to take the second set.

"I started trying to make too many winners," Gustafsson said, "and when I didn't make them, I got upset. He also started playing much better than."

Curren started strong in the third set, breaking Gustafsson twice and serving twice for the match. But the 22-year-old Swede held on, and Curren began to self-destruct, hitting long consistently from the baseline.

"I didn't know what was happening to him," Gustafsson said.



Natalia Zvereva: wants to retain all the prize money

Zvereva attempts to retain her winnings

Soviet hires US firm

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla., April 15, (Reuters): Natalia Zvereva, the Soviet Union's top-ranked tennis player, has hired a US sports marketing firm to help pressure her country's tennis officials into allowing her to keep her winnings.

Zvereva, ranked eighth in the world, is the first Soviet player to be represented by a Western sports marketing company, Sara Fornaciari of Proserv, the Washington, DC-based company which signed Zvereva, said yesterday.

"I want to exercise my rights as professional tennis players do the world over, which means that I must receive my prize money directly and also all of my other income. I want to establish my own schedule as the other players do," Zvereva said in a statement issued through Proserv.

Zvereva's earnings now go to the Soviet Tennis Federation. She earned \$361,354 last year and so far this year has won \$60,000. Zvereva, who will celebrate her 18th birthday tomorrow, receives \$1,000 a week plus expenses from the Soviets, Fornaciari said.

"I want to continue to work closely with the Soviet Tennis Federation in many areas and to support my country both financially and in all international competitions," Zvereva said in the statement.

Defect

At a press conference, Zvereva made it clear she did not want to sever ties with her homeland.

"I am not going to defect from my country," Zvereva said in response to a question.

Asked if the Soviet Union understood her concern about earnings, Zvereva said: "I don't think they understand that. Because if they did they would change."

Zvereva, who is coached by her father, was eliminated earlier this week by a qualifier in the \$300,000 Amelia Island tennis tournament.

"This (concern over her tennis earnings) has been bothering her and affecting her play," Fornaciari said.

Fornaciari said Proserv would seek to open negotiations with the Soviets. Zvereva, who said she was not afraid of possible negative reaction from the Soviet Union to her announcement, also joined the Women's International Tennis Association (WITA) along with compatriot Larisa Savchenko. They are the first Soviet players to join the WITA.

Budd marries businessman

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, April 15, (AP): Track star Zola Budd, her controversial running career on hold, married a South African liquor store owner today in her hometown of Bloemfontein.

Budd, 22, wed 26-year-old Mike Pieterse at the Universitas Dutch Reformed Church in a ceremony attended by about 150 people.

Suspended

The two have known each other for about four years and were engaged last August after Budd suspended her track career in Britain and returned to Bloemfontein, about 400 kilometres (240 miles) southwest of Johannesburg.

Budd has been one of the world's top women distance runners in recent years, winning two world cross-country championships and setting world marks at three distances. But her career has been dogged

by controversy since she was hurriedly granted a British passport and allowed to compete at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. South Africa is barred from international competition because of its apartheid policies of racial segregation. Anti-apartheid groups have criticised her relentlessly, saying she should not be allowed to compete internationally because of her South African connections.

When she left Britain last May, her coach John Bryant said she was suffering from "complete mental exhaustion."

Since then, Budd has expressed an interest in resuming her track career in Britain. British track officials said last month that Budd may be allowed to compete for Britain in the future if she lives permanently in that country and stops spending lengthy periods of time in South Africa.

Stewart and Perry retain top spot

Faldo's hopes of winning fade



Norman Manley blasts out of a fairway bunker on the 15th hole. (Reuters wirephoto)

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 15, (Reuters): Payne Stewart and Kenny Perry were tied for the lead for the second straight day in the Heritage Golf Classic yesterday, while Nick Faldo saw his hopes of winning again fade away.

The leading Americans, who both shot 65 in the opening round, posted identical 67s on Friday to share a three-stroke lead after 36 holes with 10-under-par 132 totals.

Americans Rocco Mediate and Mark McCumber, after a seven-under-par 64, were tied for third place at 135.

Sluggish

Faldo, winner of the Masters tournament last weekend in a playoff over American Scott Hoch, started well on Thursday with a 68. But the Briton appeared sluggish yesterday and toured the Harbour Town golf links in six-over 77 for a 145 total.

Faldo's downfall came with back-to-back double bogeys on the seventh and eighth holes.

"I knew the tournament was over for me as far as winning was concerned when that hap-

pened," he said. "I'm knackered. It has been very tough to motivate myself in this situation but at least I know it's only tiredness and that my game still is in good shape."

Stewart had the lead to himself at 11-under through the 16th hole as he made birdies at the 15 and 16, but he bogeyed the tricky par 3 17th by missing the green and hitting a poor chip.

Perry, who played early in the day, had a round with four birdies and no bogeys. Five times he had to save par with good recovery shots.

It took a score of three-over 145 to qualify for the final two rounds and Tom Watson made it in rather unusual fashion.

He had a 76 on Thursday with a 41 for this back nine.

Yesterday he had a 66 with a 30 for the second nine as he improved his homeward half by 11 strokes.

Among those missing the cut were defending champion Greg Norman of Australia, at 149, Sandy Lyle of Britain, at 146, and American Curtis Strange, with 147.



Simulator racing final

Fadel Al Sayef (centre) cruised to an easy victory in the simulator racing final of the Kuwait Winston-Toyota Challenge at the Sultan Center on Friday. "Fadel's score is by far the best we have had," said Fadoul Bakhazi of Winston. "He could well be the winner of the Gulf-wide final in Dubai this December," he added. With him on the trip to Dubai will be second-placed Jaber Abdullah (right), also a Kuwaiti national. At the finals they will have a pit racing skills against the winners from all over the region.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Javed Miandad

LONDON, April 15, (Reuters): Pakistan Test batsman Javed Miandad has withdrawn from his contract with English Northern League club Preston because of a back injury sustained in New Zealand in February. Specialists have ordered Miandad to take a complete rest from cricket for six months.

American tennis

INDIANAPOLIS, April 15, (AP): American tennis is stuck in a time warp, according to Arthur Ashe. "I think American tennis is still operating under what was successful 20 years ago, when the competition we had in the world was not nearly as good and it didn't take as broad a base of players here in the US to turn out good American champions," Ashe said during an Indianapolis appearance yesterday.

2000 Olympics

PEKING, April 15, (Reuters): China, who will host the Asian Games next year, is hoping to stage the 2000 Olympics in Beijing. The official New China News Agency quoted the Chinese Olympic Committee president today as saying a feasibility study would be undertaken on the staging of the Games.

Banespa Open

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 15, (AP): Top-seeded Luiz Mattar has advanced to today's quarterfinals of the \$230,000 Banespa Open tennis tournament, defeating fellow Brazilian Ivan Kley 6-2, 6-4.

Carlsson wins

ATHENS, Greece, April 15, (AP): Top-seeded Kent Carlsson of Sweden defeated Thierry Champion of France yesterday to reach the semifinals of the \$125,000 Athens International Nabisco Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Broadhurst ahead

CANNES, France, April 15, (Reuters): British first year professional Paul Broadhurst held off a host of challengers to retain the lead halfway through the Cannes Open golf tournament yesterday.

Three-way tie

LOS ANGELES, April 15, (Reuters): Defending champion Nancy Lopez started strongly by firing a five-under-par 67 to share the lead with fellow-Americans Susan Sanders and Colleen Walker at the \$450,000 Los Angeles Open yesterday.

Cerrato triumphs

COSTA SMERALDA, Italy, April 15, (AP): Italian driver Dario Cerrato won the Costa Smeralda auto rally yesterday, leading a sweep of Lancia cars in the European championship event.

World yachting

ALASSIO, Italy, April 15, (Reuters): Eric Mergenthaler of Mexico snatched back the lead in the World Finn Class Yachting Championship in yesterday's fifth race with one to go in the series.

Qualifying round

LONG BEACH, California, April 15, (AP): Al Unser Jr., the defending champion at the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach, easily led provisional qualifying yesterday on the temporary circuit through the streets of downtown Long Beach.

Gymnastics event

PARIS, April 15, (AP): Romania and the Soviet Union shared top spots at the third French International Gymnastics Competition yesterday with Russia's Valentina Mogilny heading the men's section and Daniela Silivas of Romania edging out her archrival Svetlana Boginskaya.

Italian sprinter

ROME, April 15, (AP): Italy's top sprinter, Pierfrancesco Pavoni, yesterday called "absolutely false" claims that he used steroids and threatened to sue those making the allegation.

Title bout

PHOENIX, April 15, (AP): Former World Boxing Association junior featherweight champion Louie Espinoza will face International Boxing Federation featherweight champ Jorge Paez in a title fight May 21 in the Phoenix Metropolitan Area, promoters announced yesterday.

Cup qualifier

LUXEMBOURG, April 15, (Reuters): The International Football Federation (FIFA) wants Luxembourg to find an alternative venue to the French city of Lille for their World Cup qualifier with Belgium on June 1 following complaint by another country in the group.

ARAB @ TIMES

Published by:
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Advertising:
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Annual Subscriptions:
Individuals: KD 45/-
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